

1 John 1

“6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not **practice the truth**; 7 but if we **walk in the light** as He Himself is in the light, we **have fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

the light

Revelation of reality

How we see life

indicative mood
(declaration)

walking

Response to reality

How we live life

imperative mood
(exhortation)

Review

1. There is now NO condemnation for those who are “in Christ” by faith.
2. The Spirit’s ministry to believers STARTS with assurance of what Christ has finished FOR us.
3. A godly “mind set” is the first step to “walking in the Spirit” and sharing in the life of Christ here and now.
4. All who walk in the Spirit of Christ will suffer as aliens in this world.

John 1:5

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

How are we to deal with suffering?

Romans 8

“18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1. Adjust our **Expectations**.

Suffering

- is to be expected not a surprise.
- is to be examined not denied.
- is temporal not eternal.
- is nothing compared to the coming glory.

Our expectations are shaped by culture.

- **Environment** - what is happening around us.
- **Experience** - what we have gone through.
- **Promises** - what others have told us.

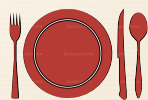
Our suffering comes in different forms.

- **We are misunderstood** as aliens who do not share the values of this world.
- **We misunderstand** because we see through a glass dimly.
- **We mess up** because we are spiritual rebels.
- **We are victims** of the sins of others, the corruption of nature, and the frailty of our flesh.

1 Peter 4

“12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as thought some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of his glory you may rejoice with exultation.”

We bear a cross to a banquet.



1 Peter 4

“the sufferings of Christ”

- **Rejected by his own people.**
- **Deprived of physical comforts and needs.**
- **Misunderstood, betrayed, and isolated in social relationships.**
- **Unanswered prayer.**
- **Trauma of the soul.**
- **Broken in heart.**
- **The shame and consequences of sin.**

How are we to deal with suffering?

1. Adjust our **Expectations**.

Suffering

• **Fellowship - all creation**

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."

- **All of creation shares the pain and suffering of our corrupted bodies.**
- **The providential care of God is also present.**

The "fall" of Adam and Eve corrupted both nature and man.



1. Adjust our **Expectations**.

Suffering

• **Fellowship - the Holy Spirit**

²⁶ And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

- **Expressing our pain (in prayer) in ways and at a level that we cannot.**
- **Knowing both our heart and God's He can make perfect intercession.**

"Spirit of God,
cry out the pain in my broken heart
- in a way that expresses the depth of
my loneliness, confusion, and sorrow
- to the throne of the one who loves
me as no one else can and who is the
only source of joy, peace, and hope
so that renewal and rest may come to
my spirit."

How are we to deal with suffering?

2. Release our **Emotions**.

• **Groaning**

²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

**We are
groaning**

**We are not
watering down,
whining over
worrying about**

"A rock feels no pain and an island never dies."
To be alive is to embrace joy & sorrow.

How are we to deal with suffering?

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

2. Release our **Emotions**.

Groaning

• **Longing**

**If we do not share his suffering in this life we
may killed our appetite for his glory in the next.**

Pain killers can be dangerous to our spiritual health.

With respect to our suffering:

"The cross is God taking on flesh and blood
and saying, "Me too." (Rob Bell)