

# 1 Peter 3:8-12 Discussion Questions

## Sermon Outline

- Recap from last week's text
- Summary statement
  - ***Because of Christ's victory over suffering and the evil that causes it, believers are free to live with hope and courage in the midst of a broken, unbelieving world.***
- Table of Contents
  - A Better Suffering (v.13-17)
  - Victory in Jesus (v.18-22)
  - Ceasing from Sin (v.1-6)
  - Motivated by Victory (v.7-11)
- **A Better Suffering (v.13-17)**
- Peter's transition from his command to live as those who bless instead of curse, who live in a cultural defying unity and humility- rhetorical question.
- **Victory in Jesus (v.18-22)**
- Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension
  - Suffered in the flesh- *sarx* most commonly used to describe the human experience or human state
  - Made alive in the spirit- *pneumata* most commonly used to identify spiritual beings or the divine nature
- Jewish thought- The sons of God in Genesis 6.1-4 are spiritual beings who are responsible for the multiplication of evil that made the flood necessary
  - 2 Peter 2.4-5
  - Jude v.6
- Through the waters and through the resurrection
- **Ceasing from Sin (v.1-6)**
- The willingness to suffer unjust displays a sin-defying obedience
- The list of Gentile practices
  - The first five point to a lack of self-control
  - The last points to the exclusivity of the worship of Christ
- Present actions matter

- **Implications**
- Christ's victory is our victory
  - Romans 8.31-39
- Therefore we live faithfully
  - 1 Peter 4.7-11

### Discussion Questions

*Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.*

Read 1 Peter 3:13-4:11

1. In this passage Peter is instructing these Christians as to how to walk through Christian suffering. One aspect of this is not fearing man, but instead "honoring Christ the Lord as holy." As we do this, Peter tell us to be ready to answer people's questions regarding our faith.

- a. How prepared do you feel do answer questions that people might have regarding your faith? What does it look like to be prepared?
- b. What kinds of questions have you gotten regarding your faith and how did you respond?
- c. Do you have any examples of how God has used your example and your willingness and preparedness to share in order to impact someone for Christ?

2. Peter then goes on to explain at length how Christ was victorious through His suffering, and that we should follow Jesus' example. Specifically, he explains how we should live spiritual lives, not living for human passions.

- a. Along these lines, Pastor Mike made the observation that idolatry leads to a loss of control. When we worship anything other than Christ we end up going farther into sin than we ever intend to. How have you seen this in your own experience?

3. Peter ends this passage with some clear application points. He summarizes what it means to live in light of Jesus' victory as being self-controlled, sober minded, loving, hospitable and serving.

a. Self-Controlled and Sober Minded

1. How has the Lord been developing self-control and sober mindedness in your life? Where and how has the Lord been teaching you to act and think carefully with good judgment?

2. For those who have been growing in these areas, what has this process looked like for you? How has God been teaching you this?

b. Earnest Love

1. What are some examples of times when you seen or experienced earnest Christian brotherly love?

2. In what ways is the Lord currently teaching you to love better?

c. Hospitality

1. What is hospitality and what does it look like in the home? What does it look like in the church?

2. Why do you think that hospitality is such a big deal to Peter that he would include it here? What does inviting strangers into your home and life communicate to those you are inviting in?

3. Some of us are naturally good at hospitality and others are not. For those that are not, what makes it so hard?

d. Serving sacrificially with humility

1. What gifts (both spiritual and natural) has God given you?

2. How are you currently using them to serve others?

3. In our serving, how can we be careful to make sure that the glory goes to God and not to us?