



Sermon Notes: How to Suffer Well

1. Shift your expectations.

2. Shift your basis.

3. Shift your reactions.

a. Natural:

b. Christlike:

4. Shift your perspective.

a. Remember that Christ suffered for you.

b. Remember that suffering is a sign of God's favor.

c. Remember that those who cause your suffering may not share your salvation.

5. Shift your hope.

a. The hope of permanence: God is giving you a glorious future.

b. The hope of purpose: God is showing you what you're made of.

c. The hope of presence: God is showing you what he's made of.



Gospel Applications: How to Suffer Well

1. How do 21st Century Americans, in general, respond to suffering (both the idea and the experience of it)? How do 21st Century American Christians think any differently than that?
2. What are some ways your expectations affect your actual experience of an event?
3. What are some ways Christians react as if they're being persecuted for Christ's sake, when in fact they're simply suffering the consequences of being obnoxious? What are some practical reasons why it's important to make this distinction?
4. What are some forms of suffering for Christ's sake that are commonly experienced in American culture right now?
5. How do Christians tend to react to the things you listed under #4? What do those reactions reveal about us?
6. What are some forms of suffering Jesus experienced while acting righteously? [e.g. betrayal] How do his sufferings speak to your sufferings?
7. What are some negative things Christians often assume about other Christians who are experiencing suffering? What faulty theology lies behind these assumptions?
8. Practically, how would it help you to remember that some of the people causing your suffering are not reconciled to God and are under his judgment unless they repent?
9. What are some things God has taught you about yourself through suffering? What are some things he's revealed about himself, but only through suffering?
10. Why is it easier to believe than to trust? What are some practical ways to entrust ourselves to God in everyday life?
11. What one thing will you do in response to this message?