

## **Christ Our Example** **1 Peter 2:20-24 (NKJV)**

20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Christ our example.

The problem with that idea is that we cannot even come close.

He lived a perfect life without sin or evil desire or animosity toward anyone.

But that is not the issue in this passage.

This passage has to do with handling how we are treated by others when it is unfavorable to us.

And it also has nothing to do with being mistreated when we deserve it for something we have done wrong.

It is especially difficult for us today to follow His example because we are all about our rights.

Also we can become offended at the drop of a hat.

By comparison, I would like to give you a verse from Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 12:5 (NKJV)

5 "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?"

The idea is that if in the time of peace, as he says in the next verse, we become weary, they how shall we do in the swelling of the Jordan, i.e. the flood.

As I read stories like the one in your bulletin insert today about persecution, what I find difficult is in these countries they teach their children to expect persecution. As in the verse here in Peter they consider it something that they have been called to. V-21

Now I do not think we should want to be persecuted but we do need to be prepared.'

Also if we are ready for a full blown persecution then we will be thankful to God that we have been spared from it.

We will also not over react to the slight persecution that we face in our own nation.

I. No credit if you are punished for doing things that are wrong.

A. Words

1. Credit

- a. kleos (κλέος, 2811), “good report, fame, renown,” is used in 1 Pet. 2:20.¶ The word is derived from a root signifying “hearing”; hence, the meaning “reputation.” *W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 268.*

2. Faults

- a. 264 ἁμαρτάνω [hamartano /ham·ar·tan·o/] v. Perhaps from 1 (as a negative particle) and the base of 3313; TDNT 1:267; TDNTA 44; GK 279; 43 occurrences; AV translates as “sin” 38 times, “trespass” three times, “offend” once, and “for your faults” once. 1 to be without a share in. 2 to miss the mark. 3 to err, be mistaken. 4 to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour, to do or go wrong. 5 to wander from the law of God, violate God’s law, sin. *James Strong, Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).*

3. Patiently

- a. Endurance under what would be burdensome. *W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 2.*

B. If you break the law expect that your sin will find you out.

1. Some Christians do those things that are not proper and they they cry foul when they are brought to justice.
2. Even if you take it in silence and patience you still get not credit from God because you are getting what your actions deserve.

C. And even if we convince others that we are innocent when we are guilty.

1. We know our own heart.
2. And God knows the thoughts and intents of the heart.
3. Hebrews 4:12–13 (NKJV)
  - a. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

- II. Suffering patiently when we don't deserve it is commendable before God.
- A. It does not need to be over a religious matter or a conviction of faith.
1. It could just be that you are being cruelly treated by a cruel person.
  2. In life, for the Christian, everything is a matter of faith for we are called to live out our faith in our daily lives.
  3. So then sometimes this has nothing to do with suffering for our faith but rather the testing of our faith.
- B. Although many times Christians do suffer simply because of our faith.
1. Jesus suffered because He claimed to be the Messiah, which He was.
  2. In our WOKE society it is easy to be caught up in a controversy that can cost us our job or cost us friends.
  3. Just think, Luke tells us that Jesus went about doing good and healing all manner of diseases.
  4. Acts 10:38 (NKJV)
    - a. 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
  5. But because of who He was He would be crucified and put to death.
  6. More than that He would be scourged and despised by those who He came to save.
- III. It is to persecution that we have been called.
- A. Because they persecuted Christ they will also persecute His followers.
1. 2 Timothy 3:12–13 (NKJV)
    - a. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- B. One of the mistakes that naive Christians make is to think that the world wants they same things they want and they are just like themselves.
1. 1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)
    - a. 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God

abides forever.

- IV. He has left us an example to follow.
  - A. First He did nothing wrong.
    - 1. 22 "Who committed no sin
  - B. He said nothing wrong.
    - 1. 22 . . . Nor was deceit found in His mouth
  - C. He never struck back with His tongue when He was reviled.
    - 1. 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return;
  - D. While suffering He did not threaten those hurting Him.
    - 1. 23 . . . when He suffered, He did not threaten
- V. He committed Himself to the righteous Judge of all the earth.
  - A. This is the issue.
    - 1. Do we understand that when we suffer it has been scrutinized by God.
    - 2. Can we trust God?
    - 3. We like to talk about all the places in the Bible where people trusted God and the Lord delivered.
    - 4. But what do you do with those place that teach that there was no deliverance.
  - B. We must remember that Jesus was not delivered but suffered all that man could do to Him.
    - 1. Christ's suffering functions as an example to believers. They are to follow his pattern and endure suffering in this present age. The word "example" (hypogrammon) is used of children who trace over the letters of the alphabet in order to learn to write the letters correctly. *Thomas R. Schreiner, 1, 2 Peter, Jude, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 142.*
    - 2. Suffering, in other words, is not a detour by which believers receive the inheritance to which they were called. It is God's appointed means for receiving the inheritance. *Thomas R. Schreiner, 1, 2 Peter, Jude, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 141.*
- VI. How to do it?
  - A. By prayer, scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit.

