



How to Handle Persecution As a Believer

"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them." Matthew 5:10

3 Types Of Suffering In This Life

- I. Common Suffering-caused by living in a fallen world
- II. Carnal Suffering-caused by our poor choices
- III. Christian Suffering-caused by lifestyle and identity

4 Responses Believers Are To Have To Persecution

I. Following Christ will pit you against _____

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trials you're suffering, as though something strange were happening to you."

1 Peter 4:12

Jesus said, "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also."

John 15:20

ii. Keep a _____

"But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ..."

1 Peter 4:13 NIV

Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering,

1 Peter 4:13 NLT

2 Reasons to Rejoice

1. Suffering draws me closer to Christ.

"I want to know Christ and the fellowship of His suffering."
Philippians 3:10

2. It means that God can be seen in my life.

"When people insult you because you follow Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of God is with you." 1 Peter 4:14

III. Never act ashamed

If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!
1 Peter 4:15,16

**The problem really is the fear of rejection.
The antidote to the fear of rejection is two fold:**

1. Realize that you don't need the approval of everybody in order to be happy in life.
2. Be more concerned with what God thinks about you, than what other people think about you.

IV. REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD!

So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.
1 Peter 4:19

For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? 1 Peter 4:17

Ask yourself these two questions:

1. Do people notice Christ in my life?
2. Have I been ashamed to take a stand?

Romans 8:17

"Since we are God's children, if we share in Christ's suffering, we will also share in His glory."