

2013 Basic Doctrines (29) **(Suffering For Christ)**

(1 Pet.4:13) “But to the degree that **you share the suffering of Christ**, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may **rejoice with exultation**.”

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Suffering for Christ and a Home study.

This lesson will help you understand why Suffering for Christ is the normal in the Christian's Way of Life (CWL) for the spiritually advancing Believer.

1. There are three general categories for suffering in the Christian Way of Life (CWL)

- **Self-induced misery (SIM)** is the natural result that comes from bad decisions, choices and behavior. A parent tells a child not to go outside without shoes and not to go around where the roofers are working because of nails. The child chooses to do it anyway and suffers (SIM). (Prov.14:30)
 - Psychosomatic Illnesses are the common result (indicator) of **Self-induced misery**
- **Divine Discipline (D/D)** is the spiritual result that comes from those decisions, choices and behavior to commit personal sin and refuse to confess it to The Lord. (Heb.12:5-11; 1 John 1:9).
 - Note the three stages through which our Heavenly Father responds to our choices.
- **Undeserved Suffering (U/S)** is suffering for Christ's sake in the Angelic Conflict (1 Pet.2:19-20).
 - Note that this is normal “Christian Living” in the Church Age

Divine Discipline and Undeserved Suffering can also be the result of God allowing Satan to instigate it in the Angelic Conflict. Here are several examples and assurances. (1Cor.5:5; 1 Tim.1:19-20) (Rev.2:10; 2 Cor.12:7-10; James 5:11; Job 1:8-11; 2:3-9; 1 Cor.11:29-31).

2. Jesus Christ is the Believer's model for Undeserved Suffering in Christian Way of Life (CWL) (John 15:19-21; 1 Pet.4:16).

(1 Pet.2:21-23) “For you have been called for this purpose, **since Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed **no sin, nor was any deceit** found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did **not revile in return**; while suffering, He uttered **no threats**, but kept entrusting Himself in Him who judges righteously.”

(Phil.3:10) “That I may know Him and the **power of His resurrection** and the **fellowship of His suffering**, being conformed to His death.” (Rom.8:17)

3. Undeserved suffering (U/S) is a normal part of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) in the Church age. (1 Pet.4:1-2; 12).

(Phil.1:29) “For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, **not only** to believe in Him, **but also** to suffer for His sake.”

(1 Pet.3:14-16) “But even if you should **suffer for the sake of righteousness**, you are **blessed**, and **do not** fear their intimidation, and **do not** be troubled, **but** sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

4. Undeserved suffering (U/S) will get more intense, in the angelic conflict, as the Church Age Believer (CAB) advances in his / her spiritual growth / maturity in these ‘last days’.

(1 Thess.3:3-5). “Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** among you.” (1 Pet.4:12a)

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” (Eph.4:11-15; 1 Pet.3:16-18)

(2 Tim.2:8-9) “Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardships even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.”

5. We will examine three examples of Undeserved Suffering (U/S) in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

- **Ministry/ mission**

- Persecution, dangers, labor, necessities, and church. (2 Cor.11:23-28; 2 Tim.3:12)

- **Personal:**

- A good example, “take Job” (James 5:10-13) “and Paul” (2 Cor.12:1-10)

- **Anti-Christ government**

- The Believer sharing Christ and being treated as a criminal by the state. (2 Tim.2:8-9; 4:5)

**YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENGUAGE IN THE ADDITION HOME BIBLE STUDY
ON THE NEXT PAGE**

HOME STUDY:

There are four specific Divine Mental Attitudes the Lord is looking for in the Christian's Life (CWL) who is currently Suffering for Christ. (U/S).

- **No surprise, it being unexpected, sharing and rejoicing with other Believers. (Chairo agalliao)**
 - (1 Pet.4:12-13) “**Beloved**, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** among you, which comes upon you or **your testing**, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that **you share the suffering of Christ, keep on rejoicing**, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may **rejoice with exultation** (chairo/ agalliao).”

- **Our Heavenly Father has either allowed or initiated our Undeserved Suffering, with the intent of Blessing us. (Makarios)**
 - (1Pet.4:14) “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed (makarios), because the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon you.”

- **We should count those blessed who endure under their Undeserved Suffering.**
 - (James 5:11) You have heard of the **endurance of Job** and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”

- **We should have a joyful heart knowing that our Undeserved Suffering is normal Christian Living and that it is source of accelerated Spiritual Growth. (Chara)**
 - (James 1:2-3) “**Consider it all joy** (chara), my brethren, when you, **Knowing** that the testing of your faith produces endurance.” encounter various trials. (James 1:2-3; 1 Pet.1:6-7)

 - (Heb.5:8) “Although **He was a Son, He learned obedience** from the things which He suffered.”

(1 Pet.4:19)

“Therefore, those who also **suffer** according to the will of God shall **entrust their souls to a faithful Creator** in doing what is right.”

(James 1:12)

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trials; for once he has been approved, **he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”