

1 Peter 3:14-18

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be ready* always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit

Wrong when you are right

We have all suffered when we shouldn't have, when another's wrong hurts us.

This passage addresses the way we should respond to the wrongs of others

We should not be afraid of their fears

We should not be disturbed

Most often we associate this
passage with martyrdom

Christians who are falsely accused and
persecuted will be blessed by God

This is true for this extreme situation as
much as for the common occurrence

God will bless the martyr and the meek

We face an opportunity everyday
to be blessed in this way

When we are yoked with someone who
has done wrong, and it effects us

The suffering may continue even after we
go to them as our Lord teaches in Mt. 18

They are making the error but we are
suffering

We are right and would not suffer if they
changed

The context of this passage
points to just this situation

The context is towards relationships

Verses 1-7 are speaking to marriage

Verse 8-11 to all who are in Christ

Verse 9: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

The foundation principle

It is better that ye suffer for well doing,
than for evil doing

Once you are in the situation you will
suffer, either from their wrong or from
your improper response

Our goal is that redemptive response that
fosters unity and love as in verse 8

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. *1 Peter 3:8 (NIV)*

The example is Christ

In verse 18 we learn:

He did no wrong

He suffered for our sin

That he might bring us to God

Put to death in the flesh, but quickened
by the Spirit