

The God of All Comfort – Part 2

Last week, we talked about how

- A. God is the Father of **M** _____ . He remembers all of our suffering.
- B. He experiences our **P** _____ with us.
- C. He can relate to all of our painful **E** _____ .
- D. He wants to comfort us as a loving, tender **F** _____ .

In order to experience God's comfort, we must understand the three different types of suffering.

Three Different Types of Suffering:

1. **S** _____ – Result of our own sin.
2. Others/**S** _____-induced
3. Sufferings for Christ due to **C** _____ activity

Type #1: Self-Induced Suffering

- I. We suffer as a result of our own **R** _____ against God's ways.
If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. – 1 Peter 4:15
 - A. When we don't understand God's ways, we often rebel. We insist our way is better.

What can we learn from murderers, thieves, and meddlers? All three take matters into their **O** _____ **H** _____ .

- Murderers – Others deny them their desires, so they **K** _____ .
- Thieves – Others have what they want, so they **S** _____ .
- Meddlers – Others are preventing them from getting their way, so they **I** _____ .

- B. Definition of Sin: Meeting a **L** _____ need through illegitimate means. (i.e., Getting something you need in a way that God doesn't approve of.)

- II. We suffer when we think that God doesn't want to meet our **N** _____ .
It is not that God wants to deny you something you need. God has a way for us to obtain those things, but we want to take shortcuts and that leads to self-induced suffering.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above" – James 1:17

So how do we go about getting what we legitimately need in life? There is a Right Way and a Wrong Way.

1. Right Way: Letting God meet my needs as I free myself to SERVE Him.
But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. – Matthew 6:33

2. Wrong Way: Trying to master my own destiny through Money or Manipulation.
"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. – Matthew 6:24

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. – 1 Timothy 6:10

III. We suffer when we take it into our own hands to meet our Needs.

Basic Need of Humanity – Love and Importance (S _____ and
S _____) God knows we need to be loved and feel important.

A. Does God care when suffering is my own fault? YES.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. – Galatians 5:1

B. How?

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. – Isaiah 1:18 (KV)

IV. We suffer when we think that sin is only when we **D** _____ bad things. Sin is also when we **D** _____ good things.

If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them. – James 4:17

A. Spiritual mediocrity is NOT an option, BUT A **S** _____ !!!

Example of universities, hospitals, and orphanages started by Christians:
Harvard, Yale, Princeton, University of California Berkeley, Oxford, Cambridge University, Mercy Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Angel Guardian Home, Friend's Asylum, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, etc.

If they did not do it, it would've been a sin. What is God convicting you to do?

Does God care even if my suffering is really my own fault? **Y** _____ !

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. – Isaiah 40:1-2

Come home. You shall find rest for your soul.

Answers:

A. Mercy; B. Pain; C. Experiences; D. Father

1. Self-induced; 2. Societal; 3. Christ-like

I. Rebellion; A.) Own hands; Kill; Steal; Interfere; B.) Legitimate

II. Needs

III. Security; Significance

IV. Do; Don't Do; A.) Sin

Yes