

Hebrews

12:14-17

1

We Must See Our Suffering As:

- (1.) From God
- (2.) For your good
- (3.) Out of love
- (4.) For your holiness
- (5.) For your righteousness,

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1. Strive for peace with everyone.

To strive is to put forth great effort to achieve something.

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Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

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Can Christians have discord, disunity, and disharmony in their relationships?

As far as it is up to you, you should be striving for peace in all of those relationships.

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1 Corinthians 1:10-11

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2 Corinthians 12:20

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Can Christians have discord, disunity, and disharmony in their relationships?

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Were they striving for peace?

Quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder are not ingredients to making peace.

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The local church flourishes when
its members strive to
be at peace with one another.

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2. Strive for holiness.

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1 Peter 1:14-16

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Obedience to God is disobedience
to who you used to be.

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Your behavior reflects your true identity.

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Where does holiness and unholiness lead?

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Revelation 21:7-8

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1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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Striving after sinfulness is the opposite of striving after holiness.

Holiness leads to heaven. Unholiness leads to hell.

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Corporate Mutual Watchfulness:

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Acts 20:28

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

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Hebrews 13:17

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

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Acts 14:23

“And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

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The presence of church elders is no excuse for a Christian to neglect their responsibility of also watching over the lives of fellow Christians.

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Hebrews 3:12-13

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Hebrews 10:24-25

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What does this mean for you?

Every member of this church is to be actively involved in watching out for one another's spiritual health.

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Sadly, some people go to church for years, without ever being in the church.

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Deuteronomy 29:18-19

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What could happen if such a person was allowed to continue in sin, and yet still remain a part of the church?

It would lead to the defilement of many.

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1 Corinthians 5:6-13

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Is this abided by in churches today?

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An immoral person has a choice to remain in sin, or be removed from the church, but they certainly cannot both remain in sin and remain in the church.

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Genesis 26:33-34

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Series: Hebrews

Sermon: Hebrews 12:14-17

1. We are commanded to be makers of peace and to strive for peace. What lessons can be learned from the following passages to help us to obey this command of God?

A. Proverbs 19:11

B. Ephesians 4:32

C. Colossians 3:13

2. Read 1 Cor. 1:10-11, 2 Cor. 12:20. We often think that keeping the peace is work that would only be needed with those outside of the church. However, the Bible reveals that even a group of Christians must work hard to keep the peace. Why do you think peace is so often hard to come by even among believers?

3. Along with striving for peace with everyone, each Christian is to also strive for holiness. This means that holiness will not come about easily. It implies that it requires hard labor. Have you ever suffered from

thinking that you would easily become a more righteous person without striving to do so? ___ Read Colossians 3:5-10. Does it sound this sound like you need to be active or passive in your pursuit of holiness? _____

4. In this life, there will be people who simply do not like you, even if you have done nothing to deserve it. List how you are to respond to them according to these passages:

Matthew 5:43-47

Romans 12:14-21

5. Studies show that pornography, fornication, adultery, cohabitating, and homosexuality are rapidly increasing. What are some ways that the church might be affected by this?

6. If you know that a professing Christian is living in sin should you ignore it? Why or why not? How could your decision affect them, you, and others?
