



The Epistles of Peter
1 Peter 4:12-19—Part 2
From Sermon 2.7.26

Read *1 Peter 4:12-19*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: As we look a second time at Peter's words at the end of chapter 4, we are reminded not to be surprised at the trials we face for faithful Christianity. Of course, he's referencing the response of a lost, darkening world. But sadly, Peter also knew we'd face fiery trials from inside the Church, when you stand on the Word and expose false teachers. Before the judgment of the lost world comes, the judgment is to begin with the house of God. This has been greatly ignored, rejected, and distorted in our day. The local church must aggressively strive to be pure. The Church must police itself and call out false teachers in the global church community as well. People's eternal fate is at stake.

1. One thing that is obvious and documented is we will face persecution from outside the church.

Examples: _____

But some persecution will come from inside the church. All darkness hates the light and responds aggressively. That possibility should never stop us from proclaiming truth and exposing the wolves.

Bible examples: See *Deuteronomy 13:1-10, Jeremiah 23:16-31, Matthew 7:15, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, & Romans 16:17-18.*

History examples: _____

Modern examples: _____

2. Is it unloving or divisive to call out false teachers and false doctrine? No, it's one of the most loving things we can do. We are commanded to. We'd have no problem with someone exposing a false doctor, fake cop, or corrupt financial advisor.

2a. What if Martin Luther, not wanting to sound unloving or divisive, hadn't challenged Roman Catholic doctrine and practice in the 16th Century? We'd still be in the dark—trapped in a works-based religion.

3. What aspects of your own faith and beliefs have you had to change due to confrontation with the Truth? Various Personal Answers.

3a. What parts and practices at New Heights have had to change when we were shown to be wrong? We've had to confront several who were clearly and publicly in a life of sin. We had to change our doctrine—from purpose, seeker-driven to Reformed Theology. We had to change our preaching from pragmatic/practical/topical to expository, verse-by-verse*. We have to remain teachable/changeable.

4. Do you have to be perfect (self or church) in order to condemn false teaching/false teachers? No. That would be impossible. But we do have to be teachable and loving and humble. See also 1 Peter 3:15, 1 Timothy 4:16, & Romans 7:18-21 [point on this one: Paul fully knew he was always battling his own flesh and sin. Yet that did not stop him from his earthly ministry of starting churches, writing Scripture, and exposing false doctrine and teachers. Peter would tell us the same.]

5. What resources are we to draw on when we face persecution not stemming from our own sin? Promise passage from the Word of God. Closeness to the Holy Spirit. A faithful family of God in the local church. Consider examples from Scripture and history. Worship. Choose Joy.