

Series: Worship Together

Sermon: We Worship Together in Suffering

Scripture: Various Texts

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1. We share in the suffering of Christ.

Romans 8:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may be glorified with him.

Philippians 3:7-11 (ESV)

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God that depends on faith—

¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

"To follow Jesus is to enter into the fellowship of His sufferings. It means, that, like Him, we will get down in the filth of life in this world. The more we follow Jesus into the dual mysteries of iniquity and suffering, the more of His beauty we will see."

- Diane Langberg, Christian Psychologist

1 Peter 4:12-16 (ESV)

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because of the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler.

¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

2. We share in the suffering of Christ together, both locally and globally

1 Corinthians 12:24-26 (ESV)

²⁴ ... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,

²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Romans 12:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

² *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

1 Peter 5:9 (ESV)

⁹ *Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

“Before our Father’s throne, we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts, and our cares.
We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.”

Blest Be the Tie that Binds, John Fawcett (1740-1817)

3. We share in the glory of Christ.

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ *For I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ *And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ *For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.*

4. Our perspective in suffering is reoriented when we worship together.

Psalms 73:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ *But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed a wearisome task,
¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God...*

Psalms 73:23-26 (ESV)

²³ *Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.
²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.
²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.
²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Four Types of Suffering:

1. Circumstantial suffering.
 - Suffering we experience as a result of living in a fallen world.
 - Suffering we experience under the sovereign providence of God.
2. Consequential suffering.
 - Suffering we experience due to our sinful and foolish choices.
3. Cultural suffering.
 - Suffering we experience at the hands of godless individuals, systems, or structures.
4. Cross-centered suffering.
 - Suffering we experience because our lives are centered on the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus.

"According to Romans 8, such a joyful chapter, here is life for people God loves: death, mortality, suffering, decay, groaning, pain, weakness, tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword, slaughter. Why are we ever shocked? Let's deeply accept it all." - Ray Ortlund