

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Communion Sunday

These questions are for the **October 11, 2020** sermon, "The Substitute." Please read the sermon passage (1 Peter 3:18) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

1. For Christ also suffered once for sins . . .
 - a. The unique Messiah from God: God's anointed King of kings . . .
 - b. "Also" suffered, meaning that he entered into suffering first, showing us how to suffer.
 - c. Jesus suffered once: the eternal one for the finite ones.
 - d. Jesus suffered purposefully: "for sins," and his purpose was accomplished.
2. The Righteous for the unrighteous . . .
 - a. Christ is the "Righteous One."
 - b. Christ suffered on behalf of all of the "unrighteous ones" (all who trust him).
 - c. His suffering is purposeful, the Righteous one "for" (on behalf of) the unrighteous ones.
3. That he might bring us to God . . .
 - a. This is the goal of his suffering, "so that" he could bring the unrighteous to a new place.
 - b. The unrighteous ones are far away from God and cannot come to God on their own.
 - c. But Jesus escorts those who trust him into the presence of God.
4. Having been put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit
 - a. Jesus actually died in the place of all who believe him (our substitute).
 - b. Jesus actually lives by the power and authority of God, so that we might live in him.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The bread represents the body of Jesus Christ. Not only is his death the only way to God, it also reminds us that he "also suffered." In what way are you suffering today? How does Jesus' suffering empower and encourage you to suffer well? With joy? (1 Pet 1:6)
2. Based on #1, above: Christ's suffering was purposeful. It accomplished the goal of bringing the unrighteous to God and showing the faithful how to suffer. Your suffering is also purposeful. It can be evangelistic (calling attention to Jesus) and edifying (an example to the righteous). We are not Jesus, of course, but our suffering is purposeful. Discuss.
3. Based on #3, above: Christ brings unbelievers to God. He does this by suffering once as our substitute. The gulf between mankind and God is very great that no one could span it. Without Christ there could be no way whatsoever back to God. Do you spend enough time thinking about the uniqueness of and power of and presence of God's love for you in Christ Jesus?
4. Based on #4, above: Most of our friends really believe that this earth, this flesh is all there is to live for. They set up a kingdom in this life and lament every challenge to its reign. Most people think that God exists to help them set up their own kingdom in this world. How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ change the way you think? Plan? And live in this world?