

Identity that Shares in Suffering Shares in Glory

April 14, 2024

Knowing our Identity is critical to a life well-lived

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 8:14-16

Romans 8:17

Today's Text: Romans 8:18-25

Bible commentary:

Paul reminds us that a victorious life is no easy path. Jesus suffered, and we who follow Him will also suffer rejection, hardship, and persecution. Suffering is a natural consequence of our relationship with God, our identification with Christ, our witness for Him, and our refusal to conform to the ungodly patterns of this world.

Here are some to look up on your own time:

- Philippians 3:10
- Colossians 1:24
- 2 Timothy 2:11-12

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

The Greek word that is translated “comfort” is “*paraklesis*”

- It means to stand beside a person, encouraging and helping, in their time of trouble

John 14:16

If one of the major roles of the Holy Spirit is to bring comfort –

- It only makes sense that **God knows that we will need to be comforted**

Suffering for the cause of Christ allows us to better relate with Him as a “man of sorrows and familiar with suffering” as the prophet Isaiah prophetically describes Jesus

Isaiah 53:3

Bible commentary:

For every degree of suffering we face as we follow Christ, the greater the comfort He provides us as we depend on Him. That is why we often have the greatest sense of God's presence as we go through extremely difficult times.

Romans 8:18

Romans 8:19-21

Even though I know my Identity today as a REDEEMED Child of God

- Creation doesn't recognize it yet because creation is still in the fallen condition

Isaiah 11:6-9

Even though creation is frustrated today because of the devastation of the curse of sin

- All of creation will be liberated from its bondage of death and decay and be restored back to the perfection that God originally created back in the Garden of Eden

Romans 8:22

Groaning indicates there must be some angst and even pain in the process of waiting and the working of childbirth

But here's the good news that follows a successful childbirth – a new baby

As a joint heir with Christ, also means we're a joint heir with the HOLY SPIRIT

As a child of God – A member of the "Family of God"

- We are the victors and not the victims anymore in this world

Romans 8:23-25

Like the newborn baby is the reward for the laboring mother

- Our New Heavenly bodies are the reward for our earthly laboring

That's the hope we have in our Identity with Christ

1 John 3:1-3

Knowing our Identity as a Child of God will help us live up to being one even as we "Share in His suffering so we can share in Glory"