

Resilient Love- 1 Peter 4:1-11 Part 7 Resilient Series

Developing a heart for others

Fill in the Blank. Through ___God's___ power we have been made to ___serve___ one another.

Intro:

What is resilience? It is the ability to bounce back in the face of adversity

We have talked about resilient hope, righteousness, holiness etc.

And today we are going to talk about a type of resilience that is probably common for us to forget about and that is resilient love.

Illustration: Princess Bride and how Wesley always jumps back up to help Buttercup because she is his true love.

Through ___God's___ power we have been made to ___serve___ one another.

In order for us to be resilient people we must be able to serve one another. This is why teams that are united do much better than teams that are separated.

Maybe it is at your office when your team has a deadline, or on a sports team for example..the O line

Body:

v.1

“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,^[a] arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,”

We are to follow Christ's example

A Person who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.

We need discipline and grit to live the Christian life.

In Philippians 2..... talks about how Christ came to serve not be served and he came in form as a baby. Matt 20: Jesus came to serve not to be served.

A person who suffers shows that he has given up those things against which his suffering is a protest. By Suffering Christ showed his opposition to sinful living.
“Arm yourselves with the intention to suffer”

Vv. 2-4

“so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they ridicule you;”

Illustration: Do we ever learn from our mistakes?

Christians have been controlled by sinful desires in the past and should no longer be controlled by them.

They really did some bad stuff before but Peter is encouraging them not to go back to that. Even the roman empire didn't like people doing these things because it would make them want to revolt.

Peter encourages them that the rest of their lives should be devoted to doing the will of God.

BEING SET APART isn't always easy

Let's learn from our mistakes and fulfill God's will over our own

vv.5-6

“but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.”

They may ridicule you now but God will have the final say at judgment day. What the world thinks of Christians does not matter.

Fleshy desires will not last

Those who mistreat believers now will be judged.

Peter is saying that physical death is not the end for believers and we will be raised again in the final day.

Lets preach the gospel everywhere so everyone can know about Jesus and what he did so that can avoid the final judgment.

v. 7

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.”

Since judgment is coming soon, get ready. Live every day like it is the end

Sober-minded= keep your head clear even with all the stuff going on around you. Fear and worry can really make us make rash decisions.

Illustration: I have this issue that when I am watching something it's hard for me to have a conversation during it. I get sensory overload, and so my mind is mush.

Self controlled= be controlled even with temptations from the world. Isn't this what resilience is in general? Control ourselves even when it is so easy to not.

Illustration: When you are fasting from gluten and you walk by a bakery....

We must have repeated acts of prayer. This is how we prepare best for what is next.

v. 8-9

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

I want to talk about a concept for a second called love at full stretch

Illustration: Sam and I learning how to serve one another in marriage. When David saved my life in Haiti.

When faced with persecution love should be evident.

“the unifying power of love prevents sins and weaknesses from manifesting themselves.”
(colossians 3:14) “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

What is love at full stretch? It is love that is stretched to the limits by the demands made on it, The type of love where we selflessly care for others and in turn affection is grown.

Go look at 1:22 for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,”

The intended nature of the church is to love one another, it is always very tough for the church to face our enemies if we don't love.

There are so many different types of people in the church and that reality makes it hard for us to love them at full stretch, but that is what we are called to.

Spiritual tolerance for someone else's faults

love covers over the wrongs of others,

Meeting together at someone's house with food takes effort, and is loving.

WITHOUT GRUMBLING is the main part of this verse. Let's open up our homes or our schedules so that we can fit others in.

vv. 10-11

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 12 talks about spiritual gifts

We all have gifts that have been given to us by God, figure them out and start using them for the church.

It doesn't just have to be pastors that pray or lead, it can be the congregation at large. GIFTS ARE IMPORTANT, USE THEM.

Speak as if you are speaking the words of God, do not use your own. If you receive a message from God do not hold it in but let everyone know about it.

Serve as if God is giving you the energy, and that doesn't really run out does it?

But remember we do all things not for our own gain but for Christ to be glorified

Closing:

Through __God's__ power we have been made to __serve__ one another.

Illustration: What does it look like to love?

Love does not keep records of wrong 1 cor. 13. It doesn't hold grudges but moves on.

3 ways on how to love at full stretch:

1. Be available
2. Be Humble
3. Take action

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay **down** his **life** for his friends.
John 15:13