

- I. Introduction: Christians go through suffering. (1:1-2:12)
  - A. Why does God let Christians suffer? (1:1-12)
  - B. How should we live when we're suffering? (1:13-2:3)
  - C. Why should our response to suffering be different than everyone else?(2:4-12)
- II. Body: What types of suffering happens to us - and how do we respond to it? (2:13-4:11)
  - A. Power suffering: how to respond when people in positions of power take advantage of us (2:13-3:7)
    - a. Governments and Citizens (2:13-2:17)
    - b. Slaves and Masters (2:18-25)
    - c. Wives and Husbands (3:1-7)
  - B. Interpersonal suffering: how to respond when others treat us poorly (3:8-3:22)
  - C. Personal suffering: how to respond when we struggle with sin (4:1-4:11)
  - D. Summary statement: what we've learned about suffering so far (4:12-19)
- III. Conclusion: An encouragement to leaders and congregations in suffering (5:1-14)
  - A. Encouraging leaders (5:1-4)
  - B. Encouraging congregations (5:5-14)