

The Christian Experience

1 Peter 2:11—3:17

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- The Suffering Church in the 40-20 band
- Erosion of religious freedom in the USA
- Jesus' warning to his followers—John 15:19-21

The Christian Experience in a Post-Christian World

A. The "Normal" Christian Experience—2:11-12; 3:8-12

1. Characteristics:
 - a. *"live as sojourners and pilgrims"*
 - b. *"abstain from fleshly lusts"* – 1 Pet. 1:14-16
 - c. *"have your conduct honorable among the Gentiles"*
2. Living as "model" citizens, employees, and spouses.
3. What the watching world sees?—3:8-12
--Our unity, love, humility, response to pressure, attitude toward life

B. The "Abnormal" Christian Experience—3:13-17

1. The Possibility of Suffering—very slim 3:13
2. The Sources of Suffering
 - a. From a human standpoint
 - 1) When reasonable behavior is abandoned, persecution comes.
 - 2) When we step outside the bounds of acceptable behavior.
 - b. From God's standpoint—Part of God's will 2:14; 3:17
3. Our Preparation for Suffering 3:13-17
 - a. *"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts"*—v. 15
 - 1) Jesus Christ is LORD!—Phil. 2:9-10; Romans 10:9-10
 - 2) Commitment to His Lordship over us!
 - b. When Jesus is Lord over our lives, we will have...
 - 1) A **Sure Confidence**—3:13-14; Isaiah 8:12-14
 - a) Outward pressure—not afraid
 - b) Inward pressure—not troubled
 - 2) A **Hope-filled Testimony**—3:15
 - a) Ready to give a defense for the reason of the hope we have in Christ
 - b) Do so with meekness and fear
 - 3) A **Clear Conscience**—3:16-17