

Spring Semester Timeline



Summary

Michael Gormley helps us understand suffering and the role it has in the Christian life. It is no surprise to learn that most humans, including Christians, have an unhealthy fear of pain and suffering. This is understandable but also unfortunate, as pain and suffering can purify our souls. In the hands of our Lord, our suffering can become transformative, redemptive, and fruitful. Through suffering, God teaches us maturity, humility, compassion, dependency on grace, and true theology. In suffering, we learn to hear the cry of the crucified one and understand this is what love is truly about.

Small Group Goals

- Understand the role that suffering plays in the Christian life.
- Provide a pathway to show how one can suffer well.

Discussion Questions

- How does our redemptive suffering bear fruit for the Gospel?
- How do we balance suffering well and redemptive suffering with a rejection of injustice against others and abuse?
- Tell a story of someone you experienced that suffered well.

Supplemental Questions

- Suffering is presented by many atheists as the primary objection to their belief in God. They say, if there is a God, why is there so much suffering? After today's presentation, how might you respond?
- In what ways can you help others you know suffer well?