



# Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

**Romans 12:14, *et al***

Persecution is any hostility experienced as a result of identifying as a follower of Jesus.

John 15:18, 20 “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. ... Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. (NLT)

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## Romans 12:14, *et al*

Luke 6:22 Blessed are you when men hate you,  
when they exclude you and insult you  
and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ...  
<sup>27</sup> I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat  
you.

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do  
not curse.

A close-up, soft-focus photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eye which has a tear on it. The background is a plain, light grey color.

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## Romans 12:14, *et al*

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

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2 Timothy 3:12 Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.



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<sup>4:3</sup> For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.



You shall know the truth, and it will  
make you odd.

— *Flannery O'Connor* —

AZ QUOTES



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**Romans 12:14, *et al***

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.