

Is Meddling Really That Serious?

1 Peter 4:12-19

One reason Peter wrote his first epistle was to encourage believers who were suffering for the cause of Christ. In the beatitudes Jesus said, “**Blessed are ye**, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake” (*Matt. 5:10-11*). Peter mirrored our Lord’s words by saying, “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye**; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you” (*1 Pet. 4:14*). Suffering persecution for Christ’s sake was praiseworthy, but then Peter gave this caution: “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters” (*1 Pet. 4:15*).

If you suffer because of your testimony for Christ, God will reward you. However, make sure you don’t suffer for committing crimes or for doing evil. In that case you would only be getting what you deserve. The last act of evil mentioned in verse 15 is being “a busybody in other men’s matters.” How serious is this sin? Amazingly, it is listed with these other crimes: (1) murder; (2) theft; (3) doing evil.



What is a “busybody”? The Greek term [*periergazomai*] means, “a troublesome meddler in the affairs of others, one who wrongly pries into another person’s business.” Sadly, often-times meddling is accompanied

by gossip, spreading rumors and making public a person’s private affairs. Just as stealing is taking something that doesn’t belong to you, so meddling is poking your nose in affairs which are none of your business.

May the love of Christ be our only probing tool, penetrating into the lives of others: caring for their souls, sacrificing for their welfare, giving of ourselves for their eternal benefit and respecting their personal privacy and rights. May only the Lord Himself intrude into their hearts!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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