

Code of Life

6

2013

«If you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.»

(1 Peter 2:20)



**To endure suffering patiently?
How is that possible?**



In his letter, the apostle Peter addresses the slaves who had become Christians and, like all the slaves at that time, were suffering mistreatment and even gross injustices.



**But that happened a long time ago!
What about now?**



We can say that his words are directed not only to the slaves of his day, but to all those, in every time and place, who are **misunderstood or treated unjustly** by others, whether they are in charge of them or not.



Try to think of someone you know who is suffering because they are treated badly by others, left alone, made fun of, misunderstood.



How can you manage to put up with these negative situations and not react with anger?



By imitating Jesus and behaving like he did.



Jesus urges us to respond with love and to realize that there's a special grace to help us overcome those difficult moments. He encourages us to see them as opportunities for us to show a true Christian spirit.

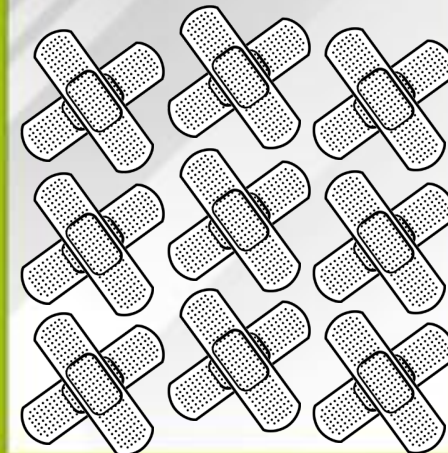
Memory Card

WE HAVE TO BEAR
WITNESS TO LOVE,
THE LOVE THAT
JESUS BROUGHT ON
EARTH, WHICH IS
LOVE FOR EVERYONE
AND THEREFORE
ALSO FOR THOSE
WHO MISTREAT US.



In Action

I WILL COLOR...
Each time I see some injustice,
I'll try to build peace.
In this way many "wounds"
will be healed.



Bearing wrongs patiently...

I play on a soccer team, where I try to put into practice the Word of Life. My position is forward, so I have many opportunities to win the game by scoring goals against my opponents. But one time, the more I scored, the more the atmosphere in the locker room was strange. In the following games I saw that one teammate in particular wouldn't pass me the ball, and tried to play it all alone.

The relationship with this guy became harder and harder, and he also started insulting me in the locker room.

I didn't understand his attitude, and, even though it was hard, I tried to put up with it. I must confess that I even considered going to play with another team. One Sunday, the situation was really bad, and he refused to speak to me throughout the entire trip to the other city where the game would take place. Then on the field it was as if I didn't exist, and despite the loud calls from the coach, he never passed me the ball.

At half time he was replaced and I had two chances to score goals, thus winning the game. Happily we went back to the locker room, but when I saw that teammate, he was sad and I could tell he had been crying. Even though the other teammates told me to just leave him alone, I felt inside that I couldn't miss the opportunity to try to love him.

I sat next to him in silence and at one point I asked him to "give me 5."
He understood that I forgave him and in a small voice, but one that spoke straight to my heart, he apologized to me.
Needless to say we won the next game - because of a goal that he scored!

