

The Continuing Work of Jesus

*Persecution in Acts

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What is persecution?

Persecution is when Christians suffer because they follow Jesus.

Persecution in Acts

1. Persecution is the norm, not the exception for Christians

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

(Acts 4:18-20)

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- 2. Persecution is central because the gospel spreads through witnesses who are willing to suffer for the sake of Jesus' name.

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

(Acts 17:32-34)

...when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Acts 5:40-42

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- The church has a responsibility to care for its own