



**NON**  
**COMPETITIVE**  
**SUFFERING**

## **I COLOSSIANS 1:24-29**

**Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people.**

**To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.**









## **ROMANS 8:17**

**Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.**

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**Are we manifesting God's self-sacrificial  
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**Have we been co-opted by our self-indulgent, materialistic culture?**

**Do our lives reflect the values of the kingdom or the values of the empire we find ourselves in?**

**Are we really seeking first the kingdom of God, or are we seeking first our own comfort and security?**

**Are we really finding all of our identities and all of our worth and security from God's love, demonstrated on Calvary, or are we to some extent getting our worth and security from our job, our possessions, our bank account, or our achievements?**

**Are we swimming against the current of this pagan culture, or are we comfortably flowing along with the pagan culture?**

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**How are our lives different because we follow Jesus?**

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**What do we not have that we otherwise would if we weren't followers of Jesus?**

**What do we do that we would otherwise not do if we weren't followers of Jesus?**

## **1 Cor. 4:3-5**

**I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself...It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of people's hearts. At that time each will receive their praise from God.**

**The following slides are formatted  
without backgrounds for printing**

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