

Deacon's Beacons

September 15, 2021

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 1 Peter 4:16

Obviously, this was a real situation in the early Church. Once Christianity was accepted by Constantine as the "state religion" of the Roman Empire, it was not the case. But almost 2000 years later, people are still being persecuted throughout the world for being Christian. In modern America, it is maybe not as stark but it is clearly present. As soon as you identify as a Christian, some people will hold that against you like it is a bad thing. Unfortunately, their experience of Christians may have formed that impression. If we use Christianity as a club with which to subjugate or condemn people, why would they not see us that way? But that is not what Christianity is supposed to be. We are to be a people of love, a people striving to make the lives of others better. They should not have to agree with us for us to do that. Maybe the very act will be more convincing than any amount of preaching or browbeating. Wearing the name of Christ should be about glorifying God. If it is used for any other purpose, it is being misused.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike