
PODCAST START:

Brian: Welcome to the Queer Theology podcast!

Fr. Shay: Where each episode, we take a queer look at the week's lectionary readings. We're the cofounders of QueerTheology.com and the hosts for this podcast. I'm Father Shay Kearns —

B: And I'm Brian G. Murphy. Hello hello! Today we're taking a look at the lectionary text for Sunday, June 18th [2017]. We're going to be looking at Romans 5:1-8. I'm going to read it out and we will also put a link in the show notes for you. Here we go.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” [NIV]

Okay, Shay. Give us your queer spin on this.

B: Well, there is a lot to unpack in this passage. [laughs] That we do not have time for. You know, I think the pieces that really resonate with me are these: the beginning verses that talk about suffering and perseverance and hope. And I think especially, as someone from the queer community, a trans person, the idea of perseverance and hope is something that I think is both really beautiful and also has been hard to come by over the course of my life. I think, you know, right now we're just a day or two past the year anniversary of the Pulse night club shooting in Orlando. I remember that day so vividly last year, and I remember

June 18, 2017

LGBTQ Suffering & Pulse Shooting, one year later
Romans 5:1-8

2/3

how... I found out when I was in Minneapolis, right before I went to church. And I got to church and it was not mentioned at all. My guess is that the reason it wasn't mentioned is because no one had heard about it – I just happened to check the news before I went to church and I'm not sure that everyone else did – but I remember just how alone I felt. Then that same day I got on a plane and flew to you, Brian, actually, to New York. And was kind of welcomed into this queer community, welcomed into being around other people who knew what I was feeling without me having to say anything. I just remember standing outside of Stonewall the next night and remembering that, you know, we are a community of people that has been persecuted for our entire existence. And yet, we still exist and we still thrive and we still have hope. So I love this passage, that it reminds us of that hope that we have. And it also reminds us that our suffering, while it is awful and we should be working so that people don't suffer, also does produce a character in us and a perseverance that gives strength and dignity and compassion and all of those things. I think that's really beautiful.

FS: Ooh. Amen to that. You know, I think it's important to remember, to note that suffering isn't good and it's not what God wants. I think the stories in the books of scripture are pretty clear that it's God will for us that we not suffer, but that there's this redemption in suffering. This reminder that even from suffering can come character from perseverance and hope. It's not, like, queer peoples' duty to suffer. There's nothing – you don't get bonus points from suffering if you don't have to. But if you do find yourself suffering, know that there's some redemption there. And you know, this last part of this passage is a little thorny and I don't want to unpack all of it, but I think that the thrust of it is that God and Christ have been on our side even in our imperfections. Even when we're not perfect, even when we don't look up to our potential, even when we sort of fall short. God and Jesus are there for us. I think that's an important reminder when we feel sort of down and out – God is there for us.

[outro music plays]

B: The Queer Theology podcast is just one of many things that we do at QueerTheology.com, which provides resources, community and inspiration for LGBTQ Christians and straight cisgender supporters.

FS: To dive into more of the action, visit us at QueerTheology.com. You can also connect with us online on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram.

B: We'll see you next week.

Subscribe to the podcast by [email](#) or on [iTunes](#)
Connect with us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Tumblr](#) | [Instagram](#)



PODCAST END

Transcript by Taylor Walker