

1 PETER

Hope & Suffering

"Love in the Last Days"

INTRO: *While churches of every age have experienced trials, they will spread and intensify as Christ's return nears. Such may inhibit the expression of the love that defines the Church as the Bride of Christ. Our love for one another must also spread and intensify with these trials.*

I. Christians are living in the _____ (4:7a).

*We've been living in **the last days** ever since Jesus came to earth in fulfillment of God's promise of a Messiah, and we have no knowledge as to **when** Jesus will appear for His Bride.*

II. Last days' _____ may inhibit the expression of _____ that defines the Church. *Jesus warned that in **the last days**, love would grow cold (Matthew 24:12).*

III. With _____ on God, sacrificially _____ one another in the last days, to God's _____ (4:7b-12). *It all begins with the proper attitude in prayer (a dependence upon God) for congregational faithfulness. But above all, Believers must love one another sacrificially. Peter gives three expressions of **last days' love**.*

A. *Last days' love _____.*

B. *Last days' love _____.*

C. *Last days' love _____.*