

Living as Strangers
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1 Peter 2:11-17

Opening question: Think about when someone goes on a foreign mission trip either short-term or long-term. How do the natives react to this foreigner initially? How can what seems like a DISADVANTAGE be turned to an ADVANTAGE if the missionary makes the most of their opportunity among the natives?

1 Peter 2:11–17 (ESV)

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Submission to Authority

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Verse 11: Let's start with the first word: "Beloved." What does that word tell us?

Verse 11 in the KJV says "I beseech you." What does your translation say "beseech" means?

Question: If Peter was the first among the apostles, why wouldn't he just COMMAND these people (and us) "to abstain from the passions of the flesh?"

Question: Why is it so hard to "abstain from the passions of the flesh?"

What does Peter say about the passions of the flesh in verse 11?

Look at what James 4:1 says...

James 4:1 (ESV)

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Question: How do we deal with such a fierce "civil war" going on inside us?

So, Peter how are we to live?

1 Peter 2:12 (ESV)

12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Above the word “Gentiles” in verse 12 you should write the word “unsaved.”

Question: Why do the unsaved want to slander Christians?

There are some Old Testament examples. Why did Cain hate Abel?

Question: What do most unbelievers think about Christians?

13 Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

Verse 13: Why does Peter say we are to “be subject to” or “accept the authority of every human institution?”

Why would being a good citizen under authority be “for the Lord’s sake?”

Question: Are there any exceptions to this rule? Is there any time we would be free to disobey human authority?

Want to get a “head start” on something I’ll be sharing from the news? Click this link:

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/preachers-defend-free-speech-and-religious-freedom-with-pulpit-freedom-sunday-video-82004/>