

1st Peter


Christian Life Assembly

Fall 2014

Jim Hoffman




1st Peter 2:11-12

- **We've been talking about living in our world is such a way that God is glorified.**
 - **And we believe that when God is seen in us that the lost will be drawn to Him.**
 - **In your opinion, is this working?**
- 




1st Peter 2:11-12

- **11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.**
 - **Our duty as Christians is twofold and one is negative and the other is positive – to resist sin, and to do good.**
 - **There are several places in scripture where we are told to cease doing this, and start doing that.**
- 




1st Peter 2:11-12

- **Eph 4:20** But that isn't what you learned about Christ. **21** Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, **22** throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. **23** Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. **24** Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

 - **Rom 13:12** The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. **13** Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see.
- 



1st Peter 2:11-12

- **Peter speaks of things that are at war with our souls – the enemy is out to steal, kill, and destroy.**
 - **We should take this seriously – Satan certainly does.**
 - **So what are the things that war against our souls?**
 - **We need look no further than to say, “whatever takes me away from my primary mission, revealing God, is something that is being used against me in the war for my soul.**
- 



1st Peter 2:11-12

- **When it comes to things that wage war against our souls, I think of the rampant and widespread use of alcohol, drugs, gambling, and pornography has waged war on many of our fellow traveler's souls.**
- **There is a whole industry that has sprung up just to help people deal with these and other addictions.**
- **And why have they sprung up? Because they are all symptoms of a sick society like the one in which we live.**






1st Peter 2:11-12

- **When Peter addresses us as strangers and aliens we have no trouble at all understanding his point.**
- **We live in a world that is anti-Christian, and one that is becoming more and more hostile to those who follow Christ.**
- **Matt 10:24 “Students are not greater than their teacher, and slaves are not greater than their master. 25 Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!”**






1st Peter 2:11-12

- **As we see in verse #2, we have a subtle, but serious tool to be used in reaching the lost.**
 - **There is an implied promise here that, in the end, the world can ridicule and shun us as they wish, but Godly behavior makes a lasting impression that cannot be ignored.**
 - **Verse #12 b - Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.**
- 




1st Peter 2:11-12

- The very fact that Peter speaks of the soul should give us some clues – *our soul is our mind, will, and emotions.*
 - So just as we are able to glorify (reveal) God in smallest parts of our everyday lives, so too can we be distracted from revealing Him in the smallest parts of our everyday lives.
 - There is a running battle that is being fought in the spiritual realm all around us – God is the chief target of the enemy and because we are His, we are secondary targets.
- 




1st Peter 2:11-12

- In many ways, it is no more complex than this – Satan’s fatal flaw as Lucifer was that he wanted to be God.
 - Now that he’s been defeated his mission has been changed to trying to undermine every effort to magnify the One who defeated him.
 - Peter makes it clear that we are capable of revealing God to the world just by the way we live our everyday lives – *why we minimize the value of a simple godly life is beyond me.*
- 




1st Peter 2:11-12

- Peter speaks again about his audience being aliens – they had been forced out of their homeland by persecution and were now forced to live in a foreign culture.
 - When we come to Christ, we too suddenly feel like we are strangers, aliens, and people who are out of step with those around us.
 - Well ... what a great opportunity to stand out. *We need do no more than to live a quiet and godly life to stick out like a sore thumb.*
- 




1st Peter 2:11-12

- Peter offers us this encouragement - *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*
 - There is no certain promise that many will come to Christ because of how we live, but there is the possibility that they 'may' come to Christ by observing us.
 - 1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. NIV
- 




1st Peter 2:11-12

- **What stands out to me in the verses we covered last week and today is the simplicity to which we are called.**
 - **Think of it this way – God is awesome and ultimately attractive when He is seen.**
 - **If we can live a life that reveals (glorifies) Him – He will take it from there in terms of that person’s salvation.**
 - **We are called to be faithful – He will make us fruitful.**
- 




1st Peter 2:13-17

- **13 For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, 14 or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. 15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.**
- 




1st Peter 2:13-17

- **Romans 13:1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. 2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. 3 For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. 4 The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. 5 So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.**
- 




1st Peter 2:13-17

- **The most important thing these five verses do is put our social and political life into relation to God – easier said than done.**
 - **No doubt we start to think of our own founding and the rebellion against authority that was the start of our country.**
 - **So is it ever okay for Christians to engage in civil disobedience?**
- 




1st Peter 2:13-17

- **Exodus 1:17** But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.
 - **Acts 4:19** But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
 - **Rev 13: 15** And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.
- 



From gotquestions.org

- **Christians should resist a government that commands or compels evil and should work nonviolently within the laws of the land to change a government that permits evil.**
 - **Civil disobedience is permitted when the government's laws or commands are in direct violation of God's laws and commands.**
 - **If a Christian disobeys an evil government, unless he can flee from the government, he should accept that government's punishment for his actions.**
 - **Christians are certainly permitted to work to install new government leaders within the laws that have been established.**
- 



Questions

