

1 PETER: IDENTITY IN EXILE

Living In A World That Doesn't Fully Accept Us

5 - How to Live Among the Nations: Good Witness in a Suspicious World

1 Peter 2:11-17 (NIV)

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

As Believers In Christ, Our Lives Must Reinforce Our Message

1. Remember who you are: foreigners and exiles

1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles...

- Don't expect exile to feel like home.

2. Fight the desires that wage war against the soul

1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

- What I permit in private will eventually affect what people see in public.
- The soul isn't strengthened by indulging every desire, but by bringing every desire under Christ's rule.
- Sin is never safe simply because it is hidden.

3. Live such good lives that your conduct becomes a witness

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

- Consistent conduct exposes false accusations and forces unbelief to work harder to justify itself.

- A credible life gives credibility to the gospel we preach.
- We live honorably so that God may be seen more clearly.

4. Submit rightly for the Lord's sake

1 Peter 2:13–14 (NIV)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

- Biblical submission doesn't claim that human authority is ultimate; it shows that Christ is.
- Conviction without honor damages witness.

5. Live as free people under God

1 Peter 2:16–17

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

- Biblical freedom isn't freedom to do whatever I want; it's freedom to do whatever God wants.
- True freedom isn't the absence of lordship; it's the transfer of lordship.
- Honor Everyone
- Love the Church
- Fear God
- Honor Earthly Authorities
- Freedom without reverence becomes self-rule.
- Our goal is not to blend in or lash out, but to live in and stand out with honor.
- My public life should support my gospel message.
- I am free in Christ, yet a slave under God.
- Good witness grows out of holy living.