



HOW TO BE AN ALIEN

UNCOMMON PURSUITS: EPISODE 4 OF 6

1 Peter 2:11-25

Dear friends, since you are foreigners and temporary residents in the world, I'm encouraging you to keep away from the desires of your corrupt nature. These desires constantly attack you. 12 Live decent lives among unbelievers. Then, although they ridicule you as if you were doing wrong while they are watching you do good things, they will praise God on the day he comes to help you.

13 Place yourselves under the authority of human governments to please the Lord. Obey the emperor. He holds the highest position of authority. 14 Also obey governors. They are people the emperor has sent to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. 15 God wants you to silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing what is right. 16 Live as free people, but don't hide behind your freedom when you do evil. Instead, use your freedom to serve God. 17 Honor everyone. Love your brothers and sisters in the faith. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 18 Slaves, place yourselves under the authority of your owners and show them complete respect. Obey not only those owners who are good and kind, but also those who are unfair. 19 God is pleased if a person is aware of him while enduring the pains of unjust suffering. 20 What credit do you deserve if you endure a beating for doing something wrong? But if you endure suffering for doing something good, God is pleased with you. 21 God called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps. 22 Christ never committed any sin. He never spoke deceitfully. 23 Christ never verbally abused those who verbally abused him. When he suffered, he didn't make any threats but left everything to the one who judges fairly. 24 Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you. 25 You were like lost sheep. Now you have come back to the shepherd and bishop of your lives. 1 PETER 2:11-25

MAIN IDEA: GOD'S REPUTATION IS AT STAKE: I WANT TO MAINTAIN IT, NOT STAIN IT.

1. STAY AWAY FROM TEMPTATION

I urge you...to live in this world as 'strangers' and 'temporary residents' to keep clear of the desires of your lower nature, for they are always at war with your soul. 1 Peter 2:11 (Ph)

Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:11-12

It is God's will that your good lives should silence those who foolishly condemn the Gospel. 1 Peter 2:11 (LB)

FOUR REASONS TO AVOID TEMPTATION

- a) IT'S ALL TEMPORARY. WON'T LAST. JUST PASSING THRU.
- b) IT DAMAGES YOUR SOUL. NOT WORTH THE PRICE
- c) IT SILENCES THE CRITICS
- d) IT WILL WIN SOME TO CHRIST

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2. SHOW RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

For the Lord's sake, yield to the people who have authority in this world: the king, who is the highest authority, and the leaders who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. 1 Peter 2:14 (NCV)

...Be good servants to your masters -- not just to good masters, but also to bad ones. What counts is that you put up with it for God's sake when you're treated badly for no good reason. 1 Peter 2:18-19 (TM)

3. SEEK GOD IN SUFFERING

This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived. He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and, also how to do it, step by step. 1 Peter 2:21 (TM)

PAIN IS FOR A BRIEF MOMENT COMPARED TO ETERNITY.

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to Him who judges justly. 1 Peter 2:22-23

A man does a fine thing when he endures pain, with a clear conscience towards God, though he knows he is suffering unjustly. 1 Peter 2:19 (Ph)

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