

**Reflecting on 1 Peter 2:11-17**  
**Living Honorably in a Hostile World**  
**November 21, 2021**

**Introduction:** In the text today, Peter helps clarify what it means to live as sojourners and exiles in a hostile world. He talks about our relation to the other people in the world and our relationship to those in governmental authority. We discovered two principles along the way:

1. When believers live honorably before a hostile world, the world is drawn to Christ. (11-12)
  
2. When believers willingly show honor to a hostile government, objections to the gospel are silenced. (13-17)

The big idea of the text is as follows: *God ordained us to live honorably and to show honor in a hostile world opposed to Him and His message.*

**Discussion Starters:**

1. What was the biggest take home point for you today? How would you state it succinctly and why was it important to you today?

2. In verse 11, Peter encourages believers to abstain from the “passions of the flesh.” Take a few minutes to create a biblical understanding of “fleshly desires.” Summarize what each passage (and its context) says about them, and then come up with a summary statement to encapsulate all you’ve observed:

- Romans 13:14
- Galatians 5:16, 24
- Ephesians 2:3
- Ephesians 4:22
- Colossians 3:5
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
- 1 Timothy 6:9
- 2 Timothy 2:22
- 2 Timothy 4:3
- Titus 2:12
- Titus 3:3
- James 1:14-15
- 1 Peter 1:14
- Summary Statement:

3. According verses 11-12, how does God use our actions to forward the message of the gospel? Does this negate our responsibility to share Christ with others? Why or why not?

4. When God calls us in verse 13, to submit to government rulers, why does it not sit well with us? How would it have sat with Peter's original readers in light of their government?

5. Can you think of times where you have not showed honor to those in governmental authority over you? Why does this passage characterize this behavior as problematic?

6. What does God hope to accomplish by our treating governmental authorities with honor and respect (see verse 15)?

7. How does verse 16 challenge us to use our freedom? What temptation concerning our freedom are we warned to avoid?

8. What is one application that you've made from the text this week that you can share with group for prayer?