

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Cultivating Cultural Discernment

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
October 2, 2022



- **Our world and culture can be chaotic, confusing, and captivating.**

### How do we live flourishing lives that please God in our upside-down world?

- **Live holy lives.**

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT) “Dear friends, I warn you as ‘temporary residents and foreigners’ to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.”

- **Live lives rich in goodness.**

1 Peter 2:12 (NLT) “Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbours. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honourable behaviour, and they will give honour to God when he judges the world.”

v. 12 (The Message) “Live an exemplary life in your neighbourhood so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they’ll be won over to God’s side and be there to join in the celebration when he arrives.”

### How can you embody the goodness of God where you live, work, play & go?

- **Live as good citizens.**

1 Peter 2:13-15 (NLT) “For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state,<sup>14</sup> or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honour those who do right. <sup>15</sup> It is God’s will that your honourable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.”

v. 13-15 (The Message) “Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens. Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God’s emissaries for keeping order. It is God’s will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you’re a danger to society.”

- **Live to serve God, the Church, and others.**

1 Peter 2:16-17 (NLT) “For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. <sup>17</sup> Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.”

1 Peter 3:18 (NLT) “Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.”

**Big Idea: Live at home in Jesus to live well in the world.**

John 15:4 (The Message) “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.”

- **Practice the prayer of Examen to live at home with Jesus and well in this world.**

### As you reflect on your past 24 hrs ask the Holy Spirit to come & reveal things to you.

- For what moment are you most grateful for?
- Where did you experience the tangible grace & goodness of God?
- What was the most life-giving part of your day?
- Where did you feel the greatest connection to Jesus?
- What is JC saying to you in this?
- Savour these reflections – sense the grace & goodness of God.

### As you reflect on your past 24 hrs ask the Holy Spirit to come and reveal things to you.

- What are least grateful for?
- Where did you refuse God’s love or fail to extend His love?
- What was the most life-thwarting part of your day?
- Where did you feel the least connection to Jesus?
- What is Jesus saying to you in this?
- Confess, repent, & allow the grace of God to wash over you.
- Thank God for being with you and & commit to follow Jesus.

For a contemporary aid in practicing the prayer of Examen check out the [Reimagining the Examen App](#)



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
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To get plugged in email:

[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

**Cultivating Cultural Discernment**  
**#3 of 6 - October 2, 2022**

- 1) Last week we talked about Forming a Resilient Identity from 1 Peter 2:4-10. We were encouraged to practice one or two spiritual disciplines to experience a transformational encounter with Jesus. How did that go for you?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read 1 Peter 2:12-18. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean for us to live as "temporary residents and foreigners" in our cultural context? How is Peter challenging us to live for Jesus in a way that reflects Christ to our world?
- 6) Read and reflect on the words of Jesus in John 15:4-8. How does this relate to what Peter is teaching?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What challenges or convicts you about this teaching? In what way is God asking you to walk in faith and obedience?
- 8) Take time together as an IC to practice the prayer of **Examen** and then discuss how it went.
- 9) What steps will you take this week to "live at home with Jesus so you live well in the world"? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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