



First Peter Temporary Residents in a Foreign Land

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“Living as Foreigners & Exiles in a Pagan Society”

I Peter 2:11-17

June 9, 2019

Dr. James D. Smith III

Theme: As I Peter 2 opens, the Fisherman-turned-Apostle provides several vivid word-pictures for the Church: living stones, spiritual household, royal priesthood, chosen race, holy nation, people of God. But whatever one’s *ecclesiology*, one thing is clear: this team plays no home games – every contest is “on the road.” So, in today’s text, Peter rises to offer Spiritual *paraklesis* (comfort/encouragement/exhortation) on how to be truly alive on earth, pointing others to Kingdom-life and God’s heaven.

Outline:

1. As Spiritual - Outsiders in a morally - needy world (2:11-12)
 - a. Abstain from sinful desires. Win that war – and your soul! (Matt. 16:26)
 - b. Live compelling goodness. Win-some, glorifying God! (Matt. 5:16)

2. And Social – Subjects in politically-charged systems (2:13-15)

- a. Submit to civil authorities. Mindful of God's intended purposes (Rom. 13)
 - b. Do good as exemplary neighbors. Muting ignorant fools (see v. 12)
3. With Status – Freed indeed to create cultures of virtue (2:16)
- a. Not self-serving - in cover-ups, excuses, license for evil (Rom. 13:14)
 - b. Serve God, as citizens of His Kingdom, and live! Our identity/eternity clear!!
4. In Summary (2:17)
- a. Re-spect all manner of people – while especially loving God's family
 - b. Respect earth's sovereigns – offering supreme *yare Yahweh* to the Lord of All

Takeaway: The Apostle John cites Jesus' prayer: "I don't ask that You take them out of the world, but keep them from the evil [one]..." (John 17:13-23). We are to love the world (creation/people, John 3:16), but not the world (lust, pride, worldliness, I John 2:15-17). We may sing "I'm just a poor, wayfaring stranger" or "This world is not my home." But on this Pentecost Sunday we declare God has not given us a Spirit of fear – but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7, I John 4:4). *Fall afresh!*

Next Cove:

Date: June 16, 2019

Title: Living Out the Life of Christ in the Household