

“If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.” —Vance Havner

WELCOME

In our passage this week Peter returns to the theme of being foreigners and sojourners to discuss what it means to be confident citizens of God's kingdom even as we live in the midst of the kingdoms of this world. As you gather this week, discuss one or both of these questions:

- What does citizenship mean to you? Where have you been a citizen?
- Who do you respect for the positive difference they have made in the world and why? Could be someone past or present, someone famous or obscure, someone you know or not.

WORD

Read **1 Peter 2:11-17**

1. What stood out to you in the scripture? In the sermon this past Sunday?
2. Verses 11-12 are key verses to understanding the whole of 1 Peter and help make sense of the instructions he gives in verses 13-20. How would you explain his point in your own words?
3. The Roman Empire was powerful. According to 2:13-17, who is ultimately in charge? How might that have boosted the confidence Christians who felt marginalized and under threat? How does that affect you?
4. Peter urged his readers to submit to every governmental authority (verse 13). Do you think Peter expected there to be exceptions to this rule? What did submission to authorities look like for Jesus and the apostles? What did it not look like? What does it look like for you?
5. The goal of Peter's instruction seems not so much about being a good citizen but being a witness to Christ in the way we act as citizens (verses 14-16). How does being a witness to Christ change the way you interact with government and society in general? What is exciting or challenging about his teaching?

WORSHIP

1. Thank God for one another and the difference each makes in the world.
2. Pray for each other and the specific situations that they need God's help to confidently live for him in those places.
3. Ask God to shape your heart and fill your spirit so that you can be more like him.

WITNESS

Putting modesty aside for a moment, what have you noticed about one another that demonstrates 'living the good life' Monday through Sunday? What could be emulated in the next week?

SERMON NOTES: