



The First Epistle of PETER

Chapter 2:11-25

“Pilgrim’s Progress!”

~ Peter teaches us “PILGRIMS” four aspects of our “SOJOURN”:

#1 – THE PILGRIM’S PURPOSE! (v11-12)

#2 – THE PILGRIM’S POLITICS! (v13-17)

#3 – THE PILGRIM’S BUSINESS! (v18-20)

#4 – THE PILGRIM’S SAVIOR! (v21-25)

#1 – THE PILGRIM’S PURPOSE! (v11-12)

- What are we to abstain from? *Fleshly lusts.*

- What are *fleshly lusts*?

A partial list of *fleshly lusts* is found in Galatians 5:16-26 - *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

~ Let’s define “*the works of the flesh*”:

- **ADULTERY** - Willful sexual intercourse with someone other than one's husband or wife. In the Ten Commandments God emphatically prohibited adultery when He said, "*You shall not commit adultery*" (Exodus 20:14). Under Mosaic Law, when a couple was caught in the act of adultery, both parties were to be killed (Deuteronomy 22:22). (We observe the grace and mercy displayed by Jesus in John 8:1-11.)

- **FORNICATION** - (Gr. *porneia*). Used of illicit sexual intercourse in general (Acts 15:20,29; 21:25; cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13,18; 7:2; etc.). The Gr. word is *porneia*, from which the Eng. word “pornography” comes. It refers to all illicit sexual

activity, including (but not limited to) adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, bestiality, incest, and prostitution.

- **UNCLEANNESS** – to live immorally; to live an impure life.

- **LEWDNESS** - Undisciplined and unrestrained behavior, especially a flagrant disregard of sexual restraints.

- **IDOLATRY** – The worship of false gods and images.

- **SORCERY** - The Gr. word *pharmakeia*, from which the Eng. word “pharmacy” comes, originally referred to medicines in general, but eventually only to mood- and mind-altering drugs, as well as the occult, witchcraft, and magic. Many pagan religious practices required the use of these drugs to aid in the communication with deities. (See Revelation 9:20-21.)

- **HATRED** – Strong dislike, disregard, or even indifference toward someone or something. As such, hate may be seated in a person's emotions or will.

- **CONTENTIONS** – To be quarrelsome, to be at strife, to be at variance with God and man.

- **JEALOUSIES** - Suspicion of a wife's purity, one of the strongest passions (Numbers 5:14; Proverbs 6:34; Song of Solomon 8:6); also an intense interest for another's honor or prosperity (Psalms 79:5; 1 Corinthians 10:22; Zechariah 1:14).

- **OUTBURSTS OF WRATH** – Bursts of uncontrolled anger.

- **SELFISH AMBITIONS** – Ambitious for self, not for God and not for others.

- **DISSENSIONS** - Discord or strife that arises from a difference of opinion.

- **HERESIES** - False doctrine, or teaching which denies one of the foundational beliefs of the church such as the Lordship or deity of Jesus.

- **ENVY** - A feeling of resentment and jealousy toward another person because of his possessions or good qualities.

- **MURDERS** - The unlawful killing of one person by another, especially with premeditated malice.

- **DRUNKENNESS** - A drugged or deranged condition, which results from drinking intoxicating beverages.

- **REVELRIES** - Speaking of feasts and drinking parties that were protracted into the night and during which people indulged in revelry (Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3).

- Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:22-23 - Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

(v12) How will non-believers “glorify God” through us? - By our good works!
Because our conduct is honorable - The Greek word for “honorable” means to be “lovely,” “winsome,” “gracious,” “noble,” and “excellent.” Let us make our daily conduct HONORABLE!

- Why were believers spoken of as evildoers? - The early Christians were falsely accused of rebellion against the government with such false accusations as: terrorism (burning Rome, which they did not do); atheism (because Christians had no idols and did not engage in emperor worship), accused of cannibalism (rumors about the Lord’s Supper), immorality (because of their love for one another), damaging trade and social progress, and leading slaves into insurrection. (Cf. Acts 16:18–21; 19:19,24–27). (*The MacArthur Study Bible*)

- Our Purpose is: *they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.* Listen to Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 - *We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says:*

*“In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”
Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

#2 – THE PILGRIM’S POLITICS! (v13-17)

- What is the Christian’s civic responsibility? Submit to the law of the land.

- We “submit” for whose sake? The Lord Jesus!

- What is the purpose of worldly governments? To punish evildoers.

- What was Jesus’ response to worldly governments?

Jesus was challenged in regard to a greedy government and corrupt religious leaders in Matthew 22:15-22 - *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians,*

saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

- When does a Christian disobey man's law? When it is in direct contradiction of God's Higher laws.

- What is the "will of God" concerning our politics? To do good, Honor all people, Love one another, fear God, Honor the king.

- For more on the Pilgrim's response to "government" let us read Romans Ch. 13.

#3 – THE PILGRIM'S BUSINESS! (v18-20)

(Think of "servants" as employees & "masters" as employers.)

- Employees should be submissive.

- What is commendable before God? To be patient & return good for evil.

- Let us maintain a great Christian attitude always, here's some tips from Romans 12:16-21- Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

~ Eight Keys to Success:

#1- Always be Honest!

#2- Always be Respectful!

#3- Always be Timely!

#4- Always be Industrious!

#5- Always be Enthusiastic!

#6- Always be Positive!

#7- Always be Open! (to learn)

#8- Always be Enjoyable!

#4 – THE PILGRIM'S SAVIOR! (v21-25)

- Who is our example in all of life's experiences? Jesus

- How do we follow His steps? *He did not revile; He did not threaten; He committed His life to God's righteous judgment.*

- What have we died to? *Sins*

- What do we live for? *Righteousness*

- We are sheep and Jesus is the *Shepherd & Overseer* of our souls. (PRAISE THE LORD!)

- Let us Pilgrims finish well as we trust in:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.