

Living in Exile: “Be Good Citizens”

1 Peter 2:11-17

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

(1:1-2:10) – From Theology to Application – (2:11-5:11)

- I. We are spiritual priests, yes, but how in a hostile culture? (2:9, context)

- II. We are in this world, but not of this world → therefore... (2:11-12)

- III. “Be good citizens” is our strategy to overcome cancel culture and leads to worship of GOD (2:13-17; cf. v. 12)

Application in Community

Welcome: As a Christian community, we believe Christians grow spiritually through interaction with GOD’s word in community (Acts 2:42-47). And we believe that each believer in Christ has a role to play to build up the body of Christ into maturity (Ephesians 4:11-16). To discover your role at Grace and to connect with a small group, see Tiewa Hanson at the Information Center or email her at tiewa@gracechurchseattle.org – you can also give us a call during the week 206.937.8400.

Application Questions:

- 1) In Peter’s time, Christians were being slandered by culture writ large – cancel culture was at its peak and Christians did not know how to handle it. **Do you see similarities today? What are some cultural accusations about Christians today that you have noticed?**
- 2) **How ought we to handle this new intensified experience?**
- 3) Read 1 Peter 2:11-17 – **What is this passage saying about a strategy for us to walk through being slandered as Christians?** [Keep in mind that the Christians Peter was writing to were being persecuted by Nero, who was like Hitler.]
- 4) **What, according to the passage, ought to be our motivation for this evangelistic strategy that Peter lays out?**
- 5) Spend some time praying for one another.

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