

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ^a Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

^b Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ^c when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ^d Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ^e Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ^f For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ^g like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

It is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."^h
ⁱ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ^j For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ^k but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ^l He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ^m Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ⁿ Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^o ^p For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ^q For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ^r but the word of the Lord endures forever."^s And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 PETER

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ^a or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ^b For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ^c Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ^d Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, ^e honor the emperor.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ^f Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ^g now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. The Living Stone and a Chosen People ^h As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁱ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house ^j to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ^k For in Scripture it says:

ONE BOOK

Sermon Discussion Questions

08-09-26

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Sermon Series: One Book - 1 Peter

Week 5: Growing Up

1. ICE BREAKER: For many of us, this is the time of year our children go back to school and/or our commutes become more congested.

What are you looking forward to as the new school year begins? Do you have any back to school traditions with your kids or when you were growing up?

2. Read our Scripture for this week: 1 Peter 5:1-11

¹ To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the

same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

What do you think Peter is trying to say to the local churches? What do you connect most with in this scripture?

3. Read 1 Peter 5:5b-6. Peter says that all of us should clothe ourselves with humility toward one another. Pastor Jessica defined biblical humility as the right view of oneself before others or God.

How does this view of humility differ from society's view of humility? Where can you show humility towards others this week?

Read Colossians 3:12 - *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience."* Both Peter and then Paul, in these verses, talk about different types of humility.

4. Humility towards others means seeing others as Children of God, persons of worth (COGPOW).

How does it feel to know that you are a person of worth in God's eyes (COGPOW)? How might it change the way we treat others if we saw everyone this way?

5. Humility towards God means submitting to Him. This is an ongoing process called spiritual formation.

Have you given God consent to be completely in control of your life? Where is one place you might still be grasping for control?

Read 1 Peter 5:7. Here Peter discusses two concepts. Casting off and doing so because He (Jesus) cares for us.

6. To cast means to throw off or the transferring of weight.

How does it feel to have an immense weight or burden lifted off you? What would it look like for you to cast off something to Jesus this week?

7. The last part of the verse tells us why Jesus wants us to cast off; because He cares for us.

Does knowing God truly cares for you change the way you think about Him? Why? How does it feel to know someone's always got your back and will never let you down?

8. Read 1 Peter 5:8. The phrase Be alert is mentioned three times in this letter, so it must be important. Peter reminds us that we have an enemy who is looking for ways to distract us, discourage us, and pull us away from God.

What are some things you need to be more alert to in your own life? How can you stay aware of what might be pulling you away from God?

9. PRACTICE: Have someone in your group put on music. (We suggest "Soaking in His Presence" if you need a recommendation!)

- Reflect on Peter's invitation for us in these verses:
 - *"Humble yourselves..."* (1 Peter 5:6a)
 - *"Cast off all anxiety..."* (1 Peter 5:7)
 - *"Be alert and of sober mind..."* (1 Peter 5:8)
- How is the Spirit showing you to be humble this week?
- What anxieties is Jesus asking you to give to him?
- What is one area of your life where you need to pay closer attention this week?