

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.

¹ 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, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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, ⁶ 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."^a
^a Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ^b 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, ^c but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ^d He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ^e Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ^f 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.^g ^g For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ^h For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ⁱ but the word of the Lord endures forever."^h 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. ^a For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ^a Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ^a Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ^a Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ^a now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ^a you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house; to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ^a For in Scripture it says:

ONE BOOK

Sermon Discussion Questions

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Sermon Series: One Book - 1 Peter

Week 3: Say What?

1. ICE BREAKER: Have you ever been somewhere (another country, workplace, family gathering, etc.) where you felt like you just didn't fit in? What made you feel that way?
2. Read our Scripture for this week: 1 Peter 3:1-9

¹ "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, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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, ⁶ 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. ⁷ Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. ⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called to that you may inherit a blessing."

What stands out to you most in this passage? What part feels the most difficult to understand or apply?

3. What was happening then? Peter wrote to Christians living as foreigners and exiles in a culture hostile to their faith. He encouraged them to remain faithful and reflect Christ in the midst of opposition. (1 Peter 1:1, 1 Peter 2:11-12).

What can we learn from the way Peter encouraged these early believers?

4. Why is this important now? If you're a Christ-follower, there is most likely a relationship or circumstance somewhere in your life, where the dominant values of that environment stand in direct-opposition to the values you're embracing as a Christ-follower.

Where do you experience the greatest tension between following Jesus and fitting into the world around you (work, family, school, friendships, marriage, etc.)? How have you been responding?

5. In Philippians 3:20-21, Paul states that as citizens of heaven, we are being transformed by Jesus into His likeness. We're not made for here. We're made for another place. And our values and our lifestyle must reflect the values and lifestyle of our homeland. If you are a Christ follower and your life looks more like the world, you might not be following Him.

Where do you see Jesus changing you to look more like Him? Where do you still struggle to reflect Him?

6. This week's passage talks about submit. Peter's instruction to submit wasn't simply about marriage. It reflects a heart that willingly follows Jesus by honoring others, even when it's difficult or countercultural.

In what relationship is God inviting you to respond more like Jesus than like the world?

7. Dallas Willard once wrote "Discipleship is the process of becoming the kind of person Jesus would be if he were you."

Think about a difficult relationship or environment. If Jesus were living your life, what might He do differently?

8. What does this all mean? People will always believe first with their eyes, not their ears.

What is one practical way your actions could point someone toward Jesus this week?

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:
 - *"Submit yourselves"* (1 Peter 3:1a)
 - *"They may be won over...by the behavior of their lives"* (1 Peter 3:1-2)
 - *"Do not repay evil for evil...but with blessing"* (1 Peter 3:9)
- Where is God asking me to trust Him instead of insisting on my own way?
- What is Jesus transforming in my character?
- How can my actions help someone see Jesus this week?