

Living Like We Don't Belong

1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the *Gentiles*, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

I. Our citizenship

A. Sojourners

παροίκος, paroikos - alien, stranger, exile

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and **foreigners**, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

B. Pilgrims

παρεπίδημος, parepidēmos - temporary resident; refugee

1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the **pilgrims** of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

(I have not traveled much...Missionaries to a foreign field don't change for the people...)

(They do not act like the nationals, they would be uncomfortable...same for us & the world)

Philippians 3:20-21 ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (Of which country would you rather be a citizen?)

II. God's command to us

A. Abstain

ἀπέχω, apechō - abstain from, avoid, keep free (from something).

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the *Gentiles* who do not know God;

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.

B. Fleshly lusts -

fleshly - σαρκικός, sarkinos - belonging to this world, not under the control of God's Spirit; material.

Lusts - ἐπιθυμία, epithumia - desire, longing; lust, passion;

(Epithumia can be a good desire, Peter here is talking about the lusts that come from

our old nature).

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

C. Which war against your soul

War - στρατεύομαι, strateuomai - serve as a soldier; wage war, battle

Soul - ψυχή, psuchē - self, inner life, one's inmost being;

1 Timothy 1:18-19 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

2 Timothy 2:4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

(You are in a war...those things which are fleshly lusts are not fighting for your best interests...they want to destroy you).

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

Romans 7:21-23 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

III. Our testimony to others

A. Your conduct

Conduct - ἀναστροφή, anastrophē - manner of life, conduct

1. *It should be honorable*

Honorable - καλός, kalos - good; right, proper, fitting; (91 times -mostly "good.").

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

2. *Among Gentiles*

Gentiles = Unbelievers.

(There should be a noticeable difference in your life - when you go to work, to the store, to school...)

B. Your good works

1. *Good works*

Good - same as above.

Works - ἔργον, ergon - work, deed, action; task, occupation, undertaking;

Conduct = overall view of the way you live.

Works = each individual thing you do

We have good conduct by continuing in good works - We create a good conduct one good work at a time.

2. *They should be observed*

Observed - ἐπιπτεύω, epopteuō - see, observe

1 Timothy 5:24-25 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding *them* to judgment, but those of some *men* follow later. ²⁵ Likewise, the good works of *some* are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

IV. Our witness to others

A. How they speak of you

1. *They will speak against you*

1 Peter 3:14-17 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be ready to give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

2. *They will call you an evildoer*

Ex. "Closed-minded"

B. How they will speak of God

1. *In the day of visitation*

Visitation - ἐπισκοπή, episkopē - visitation (of God's presence among men); office, place of service; office of bishop.

Acts 1:20 - the office of an apostle.

Ephesians 3:1 - the office of a bishop

Luke 19:41-44 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

2. *They will glorify God*

1 Peter 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men -

Romans 2:21-24 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? ²² You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? ²⁴ For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written. You do not belong to this world. The things of the world are at war with your soul. We, as citizens of heaven, need to act like we are citizens of heaven. Unsaved people are watching us to see how we are going to act. Even when they mock and ridicule us, they want to know if Christianity is real. The way we live and the way we act will make a difference in the lives of others. Lets seek to please and glorify God.