

Become an Alien Who Has Impact

Strangers and Aliens

1 Peter 2:11-3:12

February 2, 2020

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Peter is writing to Christians who were forced to flee Rome because of heavy persecution. They were starting to feel the pressure of living in a culture that was hostile toward them. Thus, the apostle sought to comfort them. He wanted them to thrive and be a light for Christ.

He assured them that their trials were for the purpose of growing their faith and that a great inheritance awaited them in heaven. He called them to be holy and to love each other.

Through Peter's words, you can learn how to navigate a world that is not your home. You live in a foreign culture that disagrees with just about everything you believe. But when you submit to authority, you become a person that affects and holds sway over those around you for the cause of Christ. God is calling you to humble yourself and become an alien who has impact.

Key Scripture -

1 Peter 2:11-3:12

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.

¹⁸ Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. ¹⁹ For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

3 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ² when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. ⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life
and see good days,
let him keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from speaking deceit;
¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good;
let him seek peace and pursue it.
¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their prayer.
But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

- 1. Verse 12 sets the stage regarding how you are to act in order to glorify God. You can keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable so that you are above reproach. When someone attacks you for being a Christian, they are enticed to follow God because of the good deeds that are a result of your relationship with Jesus. What good deeds can you do for others, that will attract them to Christ, as a result of your relationship with him?**
- 2. Submitting is hard. Peter calls you to submit to government, leaders in everyday life, and within situations at home. Which one of these would be most difficult for you? Why?**
- 3. It's hard to submit to a government that seems to be hostile to a Christian worldview. What are some strategies you can use in order to shine a light for Christ even when you disagree with government officials that are in authority over you?**



4. The Christian life can be one of suffering and hardship. Yet in 3:8-12, he calls believers to submit to suffering for the sake of righteousness. What would this look like in your context?

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

February 9th: Ben Pierce from Steiger Ministries – Developing a Passion to Advance the Gospel

February 16th: Glorifying God in the Midst of Suffering – 1 Peter 3:13-4:6

