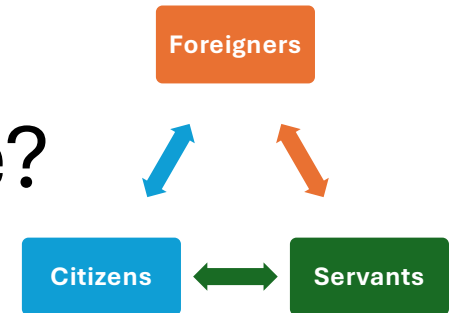


Called to Follow Jesus (4)

(1 Peter 2:11-25)

**Finding Hope in a
Hopeless World**

How Are Christians Expected to Live?



Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 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.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by **doing good** you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor (1 Peter 2:11-17).

Christians are Foreigners

We are Foreigners and Exiles

- As foreigners and exiles, abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God (1 Peter 2:11-12).
- Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there (Philippians 3:20).
- Our lives should be patterned around the culture and customs of heaven rather than those of fallen world.

Pursue Holiness for Our Souls

- Abstain: to be far away from: While he was still a long way off (Luke 15:20).
- Living in sin dilutes our confidence in Christ and our ability to impact others for Him. Followers of Jesus; abstain from sinful desires!

Pursue Holiness for Their Witnesses

- Christians keep their conduct among non-Christians honorable.
- Despite our best efforts to conduct in an honorable way, there will be some who accuse us of doing evil.
- About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them (Acts 16:25).

- In the day of visitation

- They may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation (1 Peter 2:12b, NKJV).
- The day when God visits these non-Christians with salvation (when they become Christians).
- The day when Jesus returns. Christians glorify God on that day of visitation.
- Our current enemies will become our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our consistent obedience to God will lead them to turn their sins and follow Him too!!!

- Christians' duty: Engaging in good works

- At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent (Daniel 6:4).
- Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Christians are Citizens

- We are earthly citizens
 - Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For this is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people (1 Peter 2:13-15).
- Command: Submit (put yourselves in an attitude of submission)
 - The Christian way to muzzle the critics is to obey all the laws and respect all the authorities.
 - The God of Israel says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon...seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper (Jeremiah 29:4, 7).
 - Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God (Romans 13:1).
 - Then he (Jesus) said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's (Matthew 22:21).

- Motive (why we are doing): for the Lord's sake
 - Christians are called to be subjected to governing authorities not out of fear of man, but for the Lord's sake, as an act of obedience to God.
- God controls
 - (God says) Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land (Jeremiah 24:4-6).
 - Remember the Habakkuk's prayers.
- Purpose of submission
 - **Silencing ignorance**: By doing what is right and obeying the authorities, believers silence those who might falsely accuse or misunderstand their Christian walk.
 - **Good testimony**: Christians' righteous actions serve as a witness to the world, demonstrating the transformative power of the gospel and reflecting God's will.
 - **To imitate Jesus**: For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

Christians are Servants

- Command: Submit with respect (fear)
 - Slaves (servants), be subject to your masters with all respect (fear), not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly (1 Peter 2:18-19, ESV).
- The extent of submission
 - With all respect (with every fear), fear God (v. 17): Submission has nothing to do with that person, but everything to do with your relationship with God.
 - Submission is unconditional: Submit not only to good, gentle Just but also to the unjust, harsh. It is not God's will for you to work there and have a rebellious attitude toward those in authority. When you are treated unfairly and suffer, but you remain patient because you know God has a plan for you, that is a praiseworthy act in God's eyes.
- The endurance of injustice
 - Joseph
 - David
 - But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked (Luke 6:35).

Christ-like Endurance

- The example of Christ
 - Example: A pattern, a set of guidelines to trace one's life after
 - To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an **example**, that you should follow in his steps (1 Peter 2:21).
 - I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you (John 13:15).
 - Christ is our example in service, in suffering (so we should follow his example).
 - New birth happens when you come to Jesus and follow His steps. Follow in Christ's step intimately, diligently and continually.
- Christ suffered for you
 - Jesus endured suffering and injustice for the sake of His followers an example.
- Follow in His steps
 - This call is to follow upon Christ's footsteps and carefully emulate His life and conduct in all circumstances
 - "When you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "**Follow me!**" (John 21:18-19)

How to Follow His Example

- Endure unjust suffering
 - When facing unfair treatment, believers are called to endure it with patience, rather than retaliating.
- Trust God's justice
 - Do not retaliate in kind, but rather entrust yourself to God, trusting that He will ultimately deal justly with those who have treated you unfairly.
- Embrace humility and submission
 - Like Jesus, adopt a submissive attitude and a humble spirit in all your dealings.
- Live by God's character
 - Reflect Jesus's character in your actions and responses—living with holiness, love, and unwavering faith in God.
- Be a witness
 - By imitating Christ's life and conduct, believers become a living witness of God's grace and truth to the world.