

Questions

1. Why is it important for Peter to remind us of our identity before commanding us to obedience? Read 1:17-19. How does the word "knowing" (ESV) in 18 impact the instruction in 17?
2. What turns a good desire (in and of itself) into a "sinful desire"?
3. What good desires do you need to be on guard with, so that they do not become "sinful desires"?
4. How are you growing your affection and relationship with Jesus? Where could you put in more effort?
5. How does repentance play apart in replacing sinful desires with godly desires?
6. In 1:17, Peter commands "conduct yourselves with *fear* throughout the time of your exile". What is this "fear" (hint: read 17 in the CSB translation) and how does it play into living an honorable life?
7. In what sphere or life, or with whom, do you struggle the most to live an honorable life? Why? What does pursuing grace for change look like in this?
8. Read 2:13-3:7. Peter gives contexts of life where we're called to live honorably. What does honorable living look like in these spheres?

Book Recommendation

~ *Evangelism As Exiles: Life on Mission as Strangers in Our Own Land*, by Elliot Clark

~ *Deeper: Real Change for Real Sinners* (especially ch. 1), by Dane Ortlund.



The Exile Life is War & Witness

1 Peter 2:11-12

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The life of a Christian exile is one of war and witness for the purpose of worship.

1 Pe. 2:11 — The life of a Christian exile is one of war for the purpose of worship.

Empowered Identity

Peter grounds the commands (in verses 11 and 12) in their identity.

The biblical principle is, God never commands us to do something, without also giving us His empowering grace to obey.

Peter tells them that their real battle isn't the with people around them, nor the culture they live in, but the real battle is with the sinful desires within them, in their hearts.

"Passions", "desires", "lusts", "cravings", is language the NT uses to speak of the sinful longings of the heart. And "passions of the flesh" or "sinful desires" means loving, craving, or wanting something *more* than God.

What does it look like to abstain from sinful desires? What does this war look like? This war is about worship. We're talking about what or who rules our hearts. What or who are we worshipping most.

"The best way to disengage an impure desire is to engage a pure one; the best way to expel the love of what is evil is to embrace the love of what is good instead. To be specific, we must replace the object of our sinful affection with an infinitely more worthy one—God himself. In this way we do not move from a full heart into a vacuum. Instead we move from a full heart to a heart bursting with fullness. And the power of our new affection weakens and even destroys the power of sin in our hearts." — Thomas Chalmers

1 Pe. 2:12 — The life of a Christian exile is one of witness for the purpose of worship.

"Honorable" speaks to a winsome moral quality. It's lovely, gracious, noble, and of integrity. "Honorable conduct" mirrors "good deeds" in the second half of verse 12.

In a world that's marked by selfishness, debauchery, hatred, abuse, deceit, and so on, living honorably is shocking and beautifully compelling.

As you live amongst unbelievers and honorably handle stress, suffering, defeat, success, etc., Peter says you may get to see a divine reversal. Your other-worldly honorable life will, for some, contradict the slander, and God may be pleased to use the witness of your life to cause them to worship and glorify Him.