

Series: Aliens & Sojourners—1 Peter

Text: 1 Pet. 2:11–12

Title: Lives That Make a Difference

Date: December 7, 2025

Lesson: 9

I. Who We Are (v11a)

- The terms he uses to describe us:

1. *Paroikos* –

- This world is not really our home.

Phil. 3:20 – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

- We should not get too attached to the things of this world because we aren't really the same as it anymore.

1 John 2:15–17 – *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.*

2. Parepidemos –

- We're just 'passing through' this world on the way to our ultimate home.

This is how Abraham described himself:

Gen. 23:4 – *"I am a **stranger** and a **sojourner** among you; give me a burial site among you that I may bury my dead out of my sight."*

- Peter has already used these terms to describe us in this letter.

1 Pet. 1:1 – *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to **those who reside as aliens** [parepidemos], scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen*

1 Pet. 1:17 – *If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your **stay** [paroikia] on earth;*

- What has Peter told us about who we are in Christ?
 1. That we have been born again to a living hope for a guaranteed inheritance and a salvation to come (1:3–5)
 2. That we are sufferers but can rejoice anyway b/c we know Christ will be honored and that seeing Him will be our greatest joy (1:6–9)
 3. That our salvation is the fulfilment of the expectations of the OT (1:10–12)
 4. That our job is to fix our hope on the grace to come in Christ and live holy lives (1:13–16)
 5. That we were bought with a high price that should motivate us to conduct ourselves in fear (1:17–21)
 6. That we have been given permanent, new life through God's Word that should cause us to love another (1:22–25)
 7. That we depend on God's Word as the source of our lives (2:1–3)
 8. That God has made us now to be a royal priesthood here to represent Him and proclaim His glory (2:4–10)

II. What We Need to Do (v11b)

- ‘Lusts’ –
- ‘Flesh’ –
- In light of all these weighty spiritual truths about who we are in Christ, don’t give in to such ‘base desires.’

We are so much more than our _____ desires!

- These are what lead to most of our sins.

James 4:1–3 – What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ²You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

- Too many of us spend too much of our lives being guided by what comes ‘naturally’ to us.

III. How We Do It (v12)

*1 Pet. 2:11b–12a (LSB) – abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul, ¹²**by keeping** your conduct excellent among the Gentiles*

- Behavior/conduct is a key concern in 1 Peter (cf. 1:15, 17, 18; 2:12; 3:1, 2, 16).
- ‘Gentiles’ –

It is most important to resist the natural inclinations that keep us from serving God when the rest of the _____ can see us.

- By doing right, we are going to be thought of as evildoers.
- The ultimate result is that these same people will glorify God one day.
- ‘Day of visitation’ –

Matt. 5:16 – Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

The purpose of vindicating our deeds isn't ultimately about *our* reputation; it's about _____.

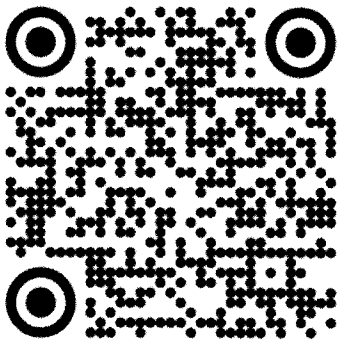
- We should know what Christ has done for us well enough that our greatest pleasure will be seeing Him glorified, not ourselves.
- By abstaining from our fleshly desires and living righteously, we are proving to the world that God exists, that He's the real standard of righteousness, and that only by faith in Christ can we live up to that in any way.
- All our good deeds on earth are so that God will be glorified *one day*, not so we will be glorified *today*.

What do we do with this text?

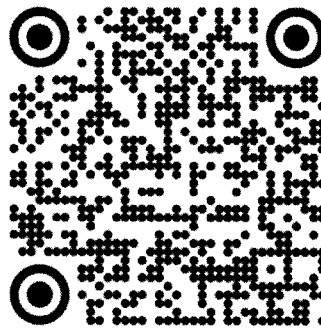
1. We need to make our whole lives about proving God and His _____ to the world around us.
2. The world's appraisal of our behavior is _____, but it does matter,

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is knowing who you are in Christ (the first chapter-and-a-half) so vital to properly living out the Christian life? What happens if you're shallow in that area?
2. Give some examples of things that come 'naturally' to you that get in the way of living out God's will for your life.
3. Give some examples of times where living righteously was met with hostility by the world around you. What about times it was praised?
4. Why is what the world sees in your behavior so important?
5. How can you tell what God may be leading you to change about your life in order to live this truth out?



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Blanks: fleshly, world, God's, character, fickle