



Week 4

Sermon Series: Sojourners & Exiles: 1 Peter

Sermon Title: The Footsteps of the Savior

Sermon Text: 1 Peter 2:11-25

Group Week of: September 25, 2022

Sermon Date: October 2, 2022

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	War in the Flesh – Romans 7:14-25
Day 2	Pagans Glorify God – Matthew 5:13-16
Day 3	Submission – Titus 3:1-2
Day 4	The Government – Romans 13:1-7
Day 5	Giving Respect – Acts 23:1-5

The Text: 1 Peter 2:11-17

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live 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.

¹³Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves. ¹⁷Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Textual Questions

- 1) What is the message God and Peter are speaking to the church in Asia Minor (and to you) through this passage?
- 2) What “weapon” does Peter encourage the exile to use in their fight with the world?
- 3) Is Peter’s command to be in submission in contradiction to his command to live as free? Why or why not?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) As strangers and exiles we are tempted to focus on the war with the world. However, in verse 11, Peter tells us that the enemy waging war against our very souls is actually the flesh we live in each day. As a group, examine the following:
 - i. Talk about what warfare with the flesh is like.

 - ii. Discuss what strategies or approaches will lead to success rather than defeat.

- 2) In verse 12, Peter shows us that waging war against the flesh is also our means of waging war with the world around us. He assumes that the world will “accuse us of doing wrong” but that our good deeds will actually lead to ultimate victory. The world will “glorify God on the day he visits us.” What does this verse teach you about how God expects us to handle the world’s accusations?

- 3) Peter tells us to be in submission to every human authority. As an example, he includes both the emperor and the governors. What does submission mean? Consider other passages that teach on “submission” in your answer. As a life group, discuss what submission is and what it is not.

- 4) In several places in Scripture, we are told that God established governing authorities to punish the evil and reward the good. What should we do as Christians when the governing authorities fail to punish evil and reward good?

- 5) The bulk of the opposition we face in American Christianity could be adequately summarized as “the ignorant talk of foolish people.” What is the proposed method of dealing with the ignorant talk of foolish people? How does this apply to a world like Facebook, Twitter, and social media? What are some of the common, but wrong-headed ways that Christians try to silence the ignorant talk of foolish people?

- 6) The Christian exile is truly free! Yet, they are also called to live in submission and even to honor and respect the appointed authorities. This difficult tension is where the Christian is called to live. How would you go about explaining this tension to a younger believer who is still trying to understand this concept? Discuss with the group what this tension means and how to walk through it well.