

LIVING WHERE YOU DON'T BELONG

To those chosen, living in exile... (1 Peter 1:1)

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles... (1 Peter 2:11)

- Christ above culture
- Christ of culture
- Christ against culture
- Christ and culture in paradox
- Christ transforming culture

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.

Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves. Honor everyone. Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel. For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth; when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one

who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2:11-25)

1. Duel sin inwardly.

...I urge you as *strangers and exiles* to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11)

2. Display your Savior outwardly.

Conduct yourselves honorably *among the Gentiles*, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits. (1 Peter 2:12)

...so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Submit: Submit to every human authority because of the Lord... (1 Peter 2:13)

Do good: For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by *doing good*. (1 Peter 2:15)

Love the family: Love the brothers and sisters. (1 Peter 2:17)

Worship God, honor your leaders: *Fear God. Honor the emperor.* (1 Peter 2:17)

Reflection Question:

Where do you find yourself drawn to blend into culture? How is God calling you to transform culture?

Scripture from the CSB unless noted.