

First Peter 2:11-17

A privileged spiritual people of God still need to live responsibly and holy in their daily lives.

2:11

“beloved” begins a new subject.

“urge you” begins the exhortation and means “I exhort you, beg you, please”

“alien” means an alien who has his own permanent home alongside of those who are not aliens

“stranger” is a similar but different word. It refers to a person who is in an area temporarily on a brief stay.

POINT:

1. Do not withdraw or disengage from your daily life or from the world.
2. Live by a standard of your homeland and live by the culture of your home which is heaven or the kingdom of God.

“abstain” means to avoid, keep from something. It is used in 1 Thes. 4:3

“desire” is unbridled impulses. Used in Romans 1:24

See James 1:13-15 to understand the process:

1. Desire comes from man
2. Desire draws man out
3. Man sees and takes the bait.
4. When man takes the bait of desire, sin has been conceived and will grow
5. Sin develops and produces death in man’s life. Death can be physical, emotional, social, financial, etc. Death means to be separated.

“soul” refers to the whole person.

“war” is a military campaign

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

James 4:1-3

2:12

“live” refers to the steady, day by day life

“good” in “good lives” means goodness and refers to an outer beauty that strikes the eye

1. Romans 8:19 the sons of God will be revealed in the future
2. Today we are to manifest of true natures by living godly
3. James 3:13-18

In 1:15 we are to live “holy lives”. Here we are to live “good lives”. So, the holiness of God is manifested in our “moral” and “good” lives.

“doing wrong” is a word that refers to an evildoer who is worthy of punishment

“see” means to observe for a long period of time and then to reflect on what you saw and come to a conclusion.

“visits” or “visitation” means to observe and inspect or to oversee. Or, the day of looking upon.

1. in the NT it is used to refer to the day of blessing when God comes to you with salvation.
2. Exodus 20: 4 God will visit the sins of the fathers into the 3rd and 4th generation
3. The day of visitation can mean one of three things:
 - a. The day God offers salvation to an individual or a nation (Luke 19:44)
 - b. The day God brings judgment onto a nation who rejected his salvation (James 5:8, which might refer to Jerusalem’s judgment that would come in 70 AD)
 - c. The Day that Jesus returns to the earth to set up his kingdom (Matt. 5:18)

2:13

In these verses God is placing you under the authority of the secular institutions of man.

The theme here is submission from the word hypotasso which is used in 2:13; 2:18; 3:1

“**submit yourselves**” is from a military term “to arrange in military fashion under the command of a leader.” The idea is to be in an attitude of submission.

This term means more than to obey the laws and rules of the land but is focused on the attitude that will keep you in a position to obey them.

“**instituted among men**” – κτισις ανθρωπινος –

1. κτισις – means creation, institution and here refers to institutions that men have created
2. ανθρωπινος – means “human, that which is made by human beings, that which proceeds from men.”

The Divine order for society is government as in Genesis 9:3

The Purpose of Government is to maintain peace and avoid anarchy as seen in 1 Timothy 2:1-2

2:14

“**governors**” ηγεμοσιν this word is applied in a variety of ways but at this time was used specially for governors of provinces or proconsuls that were appointed by the emperor or the senate.

Roman governors of this time demanded order not only in society but in the home because they believed that the house is like a small city. If you had insubordination in the home you would then have insubordination in the city and the government.

This is the importance of the fifth commandment: “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)

Paul picks up on this in Ephesians 6:1,2 and says, “which is the first commandment with a promise – that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

2:15

“**doing good**” this is used to defined “God’s will” and has in mind the idea of “showing yourselves to be good subjects.”

“**silence**” is from a Greek word that means “to close the mouth with a muzzle.” The definition would be “to muzzle, to put to silence, to gag, to restrain.”

This word is used in 1 Cor. 9:9 in reference to muzzling an ox.

The meaning of the word means “to reduce to silence.”

It is used this way in Matthew 22:34 when Jesus’ silenced the Sadducees and in Mark 4:39 when He silenced the storm.

“**foolish**” speaks of the lack of reason, reflection and intelligence. It refers to those who speak against Christianity in a senseless way.

Apparently one of the main forms of persecution here was talking.

2:16

“**Free men**” is really a reference to the ancient world’s custom of releasing a slave to be a freedman. The freedman was released by his master and would always live as one in debt to him and always showed honor to him.

“**cover up**” refers to a veil or a cloak.

The Freedom God gives us is never Freedom from these things:

1. Government
2. Responsibility
3. Pains or pleasures of life
4. Morality

“**slaves to God**” – the freedman could willingly become the slave of the one who freed him.

No government that supports evil and punishes good can survive because evil is self destructive

2:17

“**proper respect**” – τιμησατε – is aorist imperative active and means “to honor” The aorist denotes the complete action and emphasizes the carrying the honor to the final and complete stages.

“**brotherhood**” – is from αδελφοτης and is a definite reference to a band of brothers

Guidelines in the Imperative Mood (command) and Present Tense (continuous action):

1. Respect Everyone
2. Love the band of brothers (believers)
3. Fear God – Do not fear those who can only kill the body as in Matthew 10:28
4. Honor the king
 - a. Normally there is no Real conflict in obeying God or the Government as in Matthew 22:15-21
 - b. When government and God’s will do conflict it is very rare and the answer is in Acts 5:29 – it is better to obey God than man. It is interesting and worth noting that Peter is speaking in Acts 5:29 and he is also the one who wrote First Peter 2:13

Kings today:

Proverbs 16:12-15

Proverbs 24:21

Proverbs 25:5

Proverbs 29:4, 14

Kings in the future:

Psalm 2

Psalm 72:11

Psalm 110:5