



FAMILY DEVOTION

2 Peter 2:5-17



Family Devotions – 1 Peter 2:5-17

As we continue our study in First Peter, we must recognize the audience, times and message. Applying these points will help us better understand the message and how it applies to our life. According to 1 Peter 1 he was writing, *“to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen. (1 Peter 1:1 NASB)* Peter’s usage of “aliens” meant strangers or sojourners in a land that lived in but one that was not their own. They were like *Jesus who are not of the world (John 17:16)*. However, the recipients are not just those who physically lived in Peter’s time but applies to all believers across ages. Christians are scattered strangers in this world, with the commission to spread the Gospel of Christ!

The times and message of 1 Peter go hand in hand. The scattered believers were about to enter a time of trials and testing. Peter encourages them to *“greatly rejoice, even through now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.” (1 Peter 1:6)* Peter is writing this letter as one of encouragement and hope, giving all suffering saints the assurance that their suffering will one day be transformed into glory!

1 Peter 4:13-14 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 2 begins with Unity of the body and this where we start our study for this week.

As we look at 1 Peter 2:5,9 Peter calls believers *“living stones that are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5)*; in essence Peter is saying: WE ARE PRIEST IN THE SAME TEMPLE!

Questions:

1. According to 1 Timothy 2:5-6 how do we come to God?
2. 1 Peter 2:5 says to offer up spiritual sacrifices. What does that mean to you and how does that look like in your life?
3. Look at Exodus 19:6. God wanted Israel to be a kingdom of priest so they would be a spiritual influence to the world around them. Unfortunately, they failed but in the New Covenant we are the “priesthood of believers.” How can you be a spiritual influence to those around you?

Peter goes on to say, WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE SAME NATION (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Questions:

1. In verse 9 what are the four descriptions/titles given to believers?
2. What is the purpose of being Citizens of the Same Nation? (look at the end of verse 9)
3. The word “proclaim” means to tell out; to advertise. How can you in this current time, “proclaim” the excellencies of God? How can your life reveal God’s marvelous light?

1 Peter 2:11 thru 1 Peter 3:12 focus on submission in the life of every believer. We are living in polarizing times where the thought of submission seems to go counter to our individualism. This topic is not a popular one, but it is an important one! To fully understand submission, we must first understand what it means in the biblical context.

Submission does not mean slavery or subjugation. Submission means we recognize God's authority in our lives. God established three institutions at the beginning of creation they are the home/marriage, human government and the church; and God has the right to tell us how each of these institutions should be run!

God desires us all to exercise authority but before we can exercise any authority we first have to be under authority. Peter shares with us three motives for submitting to authority so the believer can live dedicated and obedient Christian lives.

For the Sake of the Lost – 1 Peter 2:11-12

Peter again refers to his readers as aliens and strangers. This is important because as believers we should always be reminded of who we are and whose we are!

In verses 11 thru 12 Peter says that we are "Beloved", "resident aliens", soldiers involved in a spiritual battle", and "witness to the lost around us".

Questions:

1. Does your loving relationship with Jesus motivate you to live a godly life in this godless world?
2. What does it mean to you to be referred as a soldier in a spiritual battle?
3. Do your outward actions contribute or take away your witness of the Gospel?

For the Lord's Sake – 1 Peter 2:13-17

Everything believers do should be for the glory of God and the good of His kingdom. Peter was careful to point out that Christians in society are representatives of Jesus Christ. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession (1 Peter 2:9), these are not just titles but away we should conduct ourselves!

Peter is telling Christian citizens that we should submit to the authority vested in human government. One thing is important, we respect the office even though we may not respect the man or women holding the office.

Questions:

1. Do you have a hard time respecting authority? If so why?
2. Peter says "honor the king" in a democratic society this refers to the president. Does your speech and/or action show honor to the office of the presidency?

Closing Reflection & Prayer

We are in the midst of something that the current church has not faced, but Peter's words of hope in the midst of trials is a timeless word. We can take courage because we are strangers in this world like Abraham looking toward the heavenly city! We have hope because we are God's chosen people and one day we will be transformed in His glory.

Let us pray to stand united with all believers because we all are members of the same Holy Nation. Let us pray for those in the government, that God gives them spiritual wisdom in the handling of the nation and COVID-19. Let us pray for their protection and spiritual guidance. We pray that we honor those God has placed in authority. We pray to be examples of Christ love in all that we do.