

Living as Strangers in the World

Living Hope in Troubled Times – Part 5

Life Church St. Louis – December 3, 2023

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

John 17:16 (ESV) They [His followers] are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Hebrews 11:13 (ESV) These [Old Testament believers] all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Philippians 3:20 (ESV) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

1. Embrace your _____ as God's people

1 Peter 2:11 (ESV) Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 2:12 (ESV) Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

2. Respect _____

1 Peter 2:13-14 (ESV) Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

1 Peter 2:15-17 (ESV) For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:18-20 (ESV) Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

3. Follow Christ's example in _____

1 Peter 2:21-23 (ESV) For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Living as Strangers in the World Study Guide
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Intro. In what ways do you sometimes feel like a stranger in the world?

What did Jesus mean by saying that His followers were not of the world as He was not of the world (John 17:16)?

Explain what Hebrews 11:13 says and how it relates to us today.

Why is the citizenship of believers in heaven (Philippians 3:20)? What are the implications of this truth?

1A. What is the war that we are engaged in as believers in the world (1 Peter 2:11)?

1B. How should you respond when unbelievers speak against you as an evil doer (1 Peter 2:12)?

1C. What should your attitude and conduct be to people around you caught in various sins and lies of the enemy?

2A. What does 1 Peter 2:13-14 tell us about what the purpose of government should be?

2B. What can you do to silence the ignorant talk of unbelievers around you (1 Peter 2:15-17)?

2C. How does 1 Peter 2:18-20 apply to working for a boss in a job today (1 Peter 2:18-20)?

2D. How should you respond when an earthly authority tells you to do something that is contrary to God's authority?

3A. What does the suffering of Christ tell us about how we should react to suffering (1 Peter 2:21-23)?

3B. What did Christ's suffering accomplish for us (1 Peter 2:24-25)?

3C. What good can come from the suffering that God allows in our lives?

3D. How could you encourage another believer who is suffering?