

Living As If... 1 & 2 Peter

Introduction to Peter:

- A fisherman
- The first to confess Jesus is the Messiah (**Matthew 16:16-17**)
- Jesus has to put him in his place when Peter rebukes Jesus (**Matthew 16:23**)
- Denies Jesus three times, then is reinstated by Jesus (**Matthew 26:69-75, John 21:15-19**)
- Context: the disciples had been “sent out” (**Matthew 28:19**)
 - ⇒ The disciples have gone out to the Jews and the Gentiles.
- Peter is writing to those dispersed amongst the nations.
 - ⇒ They formed churches wherever they went so they could work together and protect each other.

Question: What does it look like to live as if Jesus is alive—the tomb is empty?

1. We live as foreigners—exiles from the world. (John 17:16)

- The world has made us foreigners. It will withdraw from us.
- We are often so afraid to be different, left out, or radicals.
- What made them foreigners? Their faith in Jesus—not race or economic levels.

1 Peter 1:1–2 (NIV) ¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ²who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

1 Peter 1:17 (NIV) Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.

1 Peter 2:11 (NIV) Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

Galatians 3:26–29 (NIV) ²⁶So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

2. What made them, and makes us, foreigners?

- God’s part: the New Birth, The cross and blood of Christ, the empty tomb and Resurrection.
- Our part: faith.

1 Peter 1:3–5 (NIV) ³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:17–21 (NIV) ¹⁷Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

3. The attitude of a foreigner:

- Hope and Joy through trials.
- Knowing that trials may come, but remembering what Jesus has done and will do.

1 Peter 1:6–9 (NIV) ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

4. The actions of a foreigner:

- Holy living—set a part for the Lord.
- Holy living is to love God and others. (**Matthew 22:37**)

1 Peter 1:13–23 (NIV) ¹³Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” ¹⁷Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ²²**Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.** ²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. (emphasis added)

Questions to Ponder and Discuss:

1. What passage stands out to you? How will you meditate on it this week?
2. What do you see that God has given you through Jesus?
3. What is a trial that you have experienced or are experiencing? How is it challenging or growing you? How does what Peter wrote affect you?
4. Peter gives several directives about how to live differently. Which one stands out to you? Why?
5. What attitude or action of a foreigner will you embrace and practice this week? How will that look for you? With whom will you share what you discover?