

Questions for Personal and Group Reflection:

1. What stood out to you about the message? What did you learn that helped you understand the passage better?
2. What do you wish Pastor Kory would have talked more about?
3. How do our sinful desires wage war against our soul?
4. David Guretzki defines “the powers” as “any human convention, practice or order that God has intended to be in service to human flourishing but which we have allowed ourselves to be enslaved to.” Is this definition helpful for you? How might it help us determine our posture toward society?
5. What are some of the “powers” you see at work in our society today? How do we “unmask them” and bring them under the Lordship of Christ?
6. Peter seems to be saying that “it is a witness to Christ to, as best we can, live peacefully within the structure of society.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
7. How is our willingness to give up our rights and suffer for the sake of others the greatest witness to the truth of Christ?



Living Godly Lives

Four Contemporary approaches of the Church in society:

1. Go along to get along. (or _____)
 - Adopt the _____ and _____ of society.
2. Culture _____.
 - Gain political or cultural _____ to change society.
3. Monastic _____.
 - A strategic _____ from society to disciple our families.
4. Faithful _____.
 - _____ our place in society and be present and engaged in a way faithful to Scripture.

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:11-3:7

As foreigners and exiles...

Principalities and Powers: “A power is any human convention, practice or order that God has intended to be in service to human flourishing but which we have allowed ourselves to be enslaved to.” (Eph 6:12, Col 1:16)

Individual Level

“Abstain from sinful desires which wage war against your soul.” (vs 11)

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” (vs 12)

- This assumes there are some _____ we can agree on.

Societal Level

“_____ to every human authority.” (vs 13-16)

It is a witness to _____ to, as best we can, live peacefully within the structure of society.

- Peter is showing what a _____ would look like under the Lordship of Christ.
- “Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.” (vs 16)

What about Slavery?

This passage is _____ and endorsement of slavery!

- Race-based, chattel slavery _____ the image of God in all humans.
- Christians had no cultural or political power to _____ it.

Where there is _____ or _____ to correct injustice, we have a responsibility to do it. (Deut 24:14-22, Isaiah 1:16-20, Isaiah 58, James 1:27)

Peter is using this to _____ slaves and women (the powerless) by reminding them of the example of _____!

Application

1. Pay attention to our _____. (vs. 12, 15, Phil 2:5-6)
2. The greatest witness to the Truth of Christ is our willingness to give up our _____ and _____ for the sake of others. (vs 21-24)