

## The Hope That is in You – 1 Peter 2:11 – 3:12

### Lesson 4

#### Good Witnesses, Good Citizens

Peter has affirmed that the church is the elect and holy household of God with all the benefits, privileges, and hope that go with it. The issue he addresses now in this section is how do they behave in the larger society, and in the world we temporarily live in. Beginning in 1 Peter 2:11, he gives teaching concerning their responsibilities in a society where they are considered aliens and outsiders.

#### Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

1. Addressing the church members as “Beloved”, what does Peter urge them to do in v 11? Why does he call them aliens and strangers (Philippians 3:20)?
2. In what way do our fleshly cravings (lusts) “wage war against the soul” in verse 11 (Romans 8:5-8, Galatians 5:17)?
3. In 1 Peter 2:12, the word translated “Gentiles” is referring to all unbelieving outsiders. What did Jesus say in Matthew 5:16 that is identical to Peter’s command here?
4. Although we may not agree with our government’s leaders, what does Peter command the church to do in 1 Peter 2:13-15? Do you see a missionary purpose in being a good citizen?
5. What is our foremost motivation in being submissive and respectful in the work place according to 1 Peter 2:18-20?

6. Notice the contrast between deserved suffering and undeserved suffering in verse 20. Is there an important difference in the eyes of God?
  
7. Who is the ultimate example of humbly suffering in innocence in verse 21? What did Jesus accomplish in His suffering (1 Peter 2:24-25)?
  
8. Describe the prophet Isaiah's prophetic portrait of the Christ as the suffering servant in Isaiah 53:3-12.
  
9. How should wives be good witnesses for Christ to their husbands (1 Peter 3:1-6)? Why should husbands be kind, understanding, and give honor to their wives (v 7)?
  
10. In 1 Peter 3:8-12, how does he sum up the attitudes and actions vital for the unity of the church and a good witness to the world? God has given us an unmerited blessing in Christ; is He asking us to do the same to edify believers, and win outsiders to Christ?