



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Sermon Title: "Living Well in the World"

Series Title: "1 Peter: Living it Out"

Preacher: Rev. Scott Palmbush

1 Peter 2:11-21

May 3, 2026

Description/theme:

As we continue to celebrate the resurrection in these post-Easter days we are studying Peter's words to the church and learning how to live in the world. This week Peter reminds us that we are loved by God and that our true home is with Him. Then he challenges us to live "good" lives deeply rooted in that love and confidence. When our behavior matches our beliefs God will use our lives to change hearts. The most powerful example comes from the way we respond to unjust suffering. Not easy, but we rely on the Spirit and we look to Jesus who modeled it for us as he went to the cross. Let's examine how our lives can reflect the truth of the Gospel and how our example can really make a difference in those around us.

Icebreaker (for groups):

Tell about a time when you felt like you didn't fit in with a new situation, such as a new job, school, class, church, etc. What happened that eventually caused you to feel like you belonged to the group?

Reflections on the Sermon:

What points from Pastor Scott's sermon resonated with you?

Scripture Passages: 1 Peter 2:11–21 (NIV)

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live 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.

¹³Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

¹⁸Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

NOTE FOR GROUP LEADERS: Consider focusing on the *-marked questions if you have time constraints.

Reviewing the Scriptures:

1. In verses 11-12, what does Peter urge us to stop doing? What does he encourage us to do, and why? In what way(s), if any, is Peter saying we can evangelize without becoming a missionary?
2. *How might our natural desire to fit in with others become a sinful desire? Give an example.
3. In verses 13-17, what commands tell us how to live as foreigners among people? How can putting into practice his four references to God here help us obey those commands with a right heart?
4. When someone rejects Jesus because they want to be free, what do you think freedom means to them? What does freedom mean to you?



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5. *What does it mean to you to live as God's slave? How does this differ from being a slave to our sinful desires? Which master would you rather serve? Which master would others say you serve?
6. In verses 18-20, although we are not literal slaves, to whom do we submit in our relationships and activities? How can the references to God here help us submit to harsh or unjust people?
7. *In verse 21, why are we called to suffer unjustly? In what ways have you suffered unjustly? How do they compare to His suffering? How does our response to suffering unjustly reflect our faith?


Going Deeper:

1. In verse 12, to what day do you think Peter is referring? What might the accusers say on that day that would glorify God? What will you say on that day?
2. *In verses 13-14, what exceptions, if any, might there be to submitting to every authority? On what basis might the exceptions, if any, be acceptable to God?
3. *In verse 15, how does God want us to "silence ignorant talk"? What is our tendency when we are unjustly accused? How have your responses changed since first becoming a believer?
4. In verse 16, what does Peter mean by telling us to live as free people and to live as God's slaves? Is this a contradiction? What is a believer freed from through Christ? What is the tension in this?
5. *How might believers use their freedom as a cover-up for evil? Rather than trying to hide the evil, what should they do, not only as a slave of God, but also as one whom Jesus calls a friend?
6. In verse 17, how are we to live as God's slaves as Peter mentioned in verse 16b? To whom are we ultimately accountable? How should that affect our relationships with others?
7. In verse 18, as slaves accountable to God, our Master, and accountable to our families, jobs, schools, etc., our "masters", how can we resolve this dual accountability to a loving Father and a sinful world?
8. *In verses 20b-21, because enduring suffering for doing good is commendable, what has He given us to help us endure? How have you used all that God has given you to "suffer well"?

Personal Reflection Questions (Optional for groups)

1. In what ways might you be suffering today from doing good? How does your response compare with the key points of this passage?
2. How well do your behaviors match your beliefs, so God will use your life to change hearts? What resources are available to You that God can use to realign your mismatched behaviors?
3. From what specific sinful desires will you ask God to help you abstain this week? What role will the Holy Spirit have in this?

Opportunities to Fulfill God's Purpose through Serving:

 To explore local service opportunities, go to www.trinityconnection.com and click on the "Serve" link near the top right to reach the "Ways to Serve" screen and scroll down.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we confess that we don't always respond to difficult people or situations in ways that glorify You before others. Holy Spirit, give us Your discernment and wisdom to navigate these tensions as we submit to Your heavenly authority and to every human authority. Forgive us for taking liberties with our freedoms for which Christ paid with His perfect life on earth. Thank You, Jesus, for Your costly and life-saving work on the cross that gives us the example of perfect suffering. Thank You for opening



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our eyes to another vital dimension of what it means to follow You, not only by sharing in Your blessings, but also in Your sufferings. For it is in Your name we pray...Amen!