

## “Our Witness” - 1 Peter 2:11-17, 21-25

Ask - What is a witness? Have you ever been a witness in a trial or argument?

Background - In last week’s lesson, we discussed our identity in Christ as “newborn babies”, “living stones”, and “a royal priesthood”. This morning we will talk about how to present a godly witness in the world.

“Abstain from Fleshly Lusts” - 1 Peter 2:11-12

(v11) Why does Peter refer to his audience as “sojourners and exiles”? Is Peter talking about a physical battle or a spiritual one? Discuss.

(v12) Observing their excellent conduct, how does Peter hope that the Gentiles’ behavior will change? From what to what?

IN ORDER TO PORTRAY A GODLY WITNESS THAT POINTS LOST PEOPLE TO JESUS, CHRISTIANS MUST ABSTAIN FROM FLESHLY LUSTS.

“Be Subject to Authority” - 1 Peter 2:13-17

(v13-14) Why should we submit to human authorities and governance? Why did God establish such authorities?

(v15-16) As the foolish see them living in subjection, what does Peter hope will happen? How are Christians to use their freedom? Discuss.

(v17) List the 4 phrases in this verse. Talk about the meaning of each of them and how they are different from each other.

IN ORDER TO PORTRAY A GODLY WITNESS THAT SILENCES THE FOOLISH, CHRISTIANS SHOULD SUBMIT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY.

“Suffer for Christ’s Sake” - 1 Peter 2:21-25

(v21) To what have Christians been called (look back at v20)? Who set the example for us? How? Discuss.

(v22-23) How does this verse describe the blamelessness of Jesus? How was Jesus treated and how did He respond to His treatment? Who did He trust?

(v24) How does this verse describe what happened to Jesus on the cross? Read Isaiah 53:5. What does it mean that believers are “healed”?

(v25) According to this verse, what were/are Christians like prior to their

salvation? How does this change when they are saved? Read Psalm 23.

IN ORDER TO PORTRAY A GODLY WITNESS CHRISTIANS MAY HAVE TO FACE SUFFERING, AS CHRIST DID FOR THEM.

Application - A person's witness is only as good as their reputation and credibility. If a professing Christian indulges in the lusts of the flesh, is not submissive to authority, and is unwilling to suffer for the name and cause of Christ, they won't be a very effective witness. Who would believe someone who says one thing, but does another? By living in obedience to God, Christians can silence (or at least mute) the critics even if they don't agree with the Christian perspective. How strong is your witness?