

## Standing in the True Grace of God

*Peter's Life, Letters and Lord*

### 1 Peter 2:11-17

**Read 1 Peter 2:11-17.**

1. Peter addresses his readers as “dear friends.” What other two terms does he use for believers in verse 11?
2. Look back at verses 9 and 10. What is the connection between the status of believers as described in those two verses and the status of believers as “aliens and strangers in the world” (v. 11)?
3. Commentator Karen Jobes remarks, “[Peter] reminds his readers that they stand in a long tradition of people who were chosen by God and called to be aliens and strangers in the places where they lived.”<sup>1</sup> See how many men and women of the Bible you can think of who lived as sojourners. (📖\* Gen. 23:4; Ps. 39:12)

Share your list with your group to see just how significant this experience has been throughout the history of God's chosen people.

4. What does Peter exhort his readers to do in verse 11?
5. Peter says that sinful desires are dangerous because they war against our souls. What do you think that means?
6. What does Peter exhort believers to do in verse 12? (📖\* Mt. 5:16; 1 Thess. 4:11-12)

Why?

7. As you go through your day, how mindful are you that non-believers are observing the way you live?

In what concrete ways can you apply Peter's exhortation in verse 12 to your life?

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<sup>1</sup>Karen H. Jobes, *1 Peter*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005), 168.

\*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

8. In verses 13 and following, Peter discusses one specific way Christians should lead good lives. What is it that they are to do?
9. Given the special status of believers as described in verses 9 and 10, what attitude do you think some of Peter's original readers might have been tempted to have toward their pagan rulers?
10. Human rulers might not in and of themselves inspire great respect. For whose sake are believers to submit to earthly authorities?
11. In submitting to our leaders today, what should our attitudes and actions be? (You may wish to consider Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; Titus 3:1.)

In what ways do you find this challenging?

12. Verse 16 sounds like a paradox: "Live as free men [and women]...; live as servants [or 'slaves'] of God." How do you think these two things fit together?
13. Peter gives four short commands in verse 17.

What do believers owe to all people?

To brothers and sisters in Christ? (📖\* Jn. 13:34-35; 1 Pet. 1:22)

To the king?

To God? (📖\* Lk. 12:4-5)

Which of these four commands do you find most challenging. Why?

14. Look back over this week's passage, and note how at every step fear (deep reverence) for God is the motivation.