



TAKEAWAY

We can honor Jesus in hard situations by prayerfully letting love cover the sins of others and using our gifts to serve others.

STUDY POINTS

The first verse of 1 Peter clarifies that Peter is writing to followers of Jesus in various locations that are living as “elect exiles.” It would seem that he is using the idea of exile as a metaphor for the spiritual reality of his original audience. Regardless, Peter writes to lead his readers in how to be faithful in the midst of great affliction.

QUESTIONS

Verses 7-9 – earnest love

What does the “therefore” in verse 7 point to as the context for the command of self-controlled and sober-minded prayers?

How does the context of verse 7 impact the command of verse 7?

Why do you think pain and difficulty often serve as obstacles to our prayers? Do hardships make it harder for you to pray? How?

What are some traits of the earnest love mentioned in verse 8? Or, how might we know the difference between earnest love and superficial love?

What is the difference between love covering sin in a healthy way and sin being dangerously hidden?

Are there certain people or actions that are harder than others for you to let love cover? Why?

Verses 10-11 – gifted to serve

Who does verse 10 say has received a gift from God?

Have you ever considered specifically how God has gifted you to serve others?

Fill in the blank: “It means the most to me when others serve me by _____.” Why?

In what ways do you most enjoy serving others? What acts of service are most difficult for you to do? Why?