

THE FIRST PILGRIMS
1 PETER 2:11-12 / 8-28-19 / WED

I. FIRST, WHO WERE THESE FIRST PILGRIMS?

A. They were called “**Dear Friends**” in verse 11. This phrase also means “dearly beloved”.

1. Peter loved them. Peter uses this phrase here and in 4:12 as well.
2. God uses this phrase too—Romans 1:7 and Col 3:12.

Romans 1:7

To all in Rome who are loved by God...

Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved,

3. It’s good to remember that God also loves us.

B. They were also called “aliens” and “**strangers**” in verse 11.

1. These two words are used interchangeably.
2. They were aliens in the same way Israel were aliens living in Egypt before the exodus.
3. We too are aliens in this world because it’s not our ultimate home—Phil. 3:20.

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven...

II. SECOND, WHAT WERE THESE PILGRIMS EXPECTED TO DO WHILE IN THIS WORLD?

A. First, Peter said they were “**to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul**”—verse 11

1. Peter reminded them and us that Christians aren’t immune to sinful desires.
2. These sinful desires certainly include sexual sins but isn’t limited to them—Gal. 5:19-21.
3. Notice Paul says that people who habitually follow their sinful desires aren’t really “born again”—“**I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**”
4. Notice too that sin begins in the mind as “**desires**” before it is carried out in the body—Matt. 15:19.

5. This is why Paul urges us to guard our thoughts and “thought life”—Phil. 4:8.
- B. Positively, Peter urges his readers to “**live good lives among the pagans...v. 12.**
 1. We’re not only to stop certain sinful behaviors but we are also to “start” certain good behaviors.
 2. This is because Christians in the first century were often criticized because they their actions and beliefs were misunderstood—“**...though they accuse you of doing wrong...”—v.12.**
 - a. Accused of being cannibals because of the phrases in the Lords Super—“**this is my body and this is my blood**”.
 - b. Accused of immorality because Christian “potlucks” were called “Love Feasts”.
 - c. Accused of disloyalty to Caesar because they wouldn’t pledge allegiance to him by burning incense in a pagan temple.

III. **FINALLY, WHY WERE THESE PILGRIMS EXPECTED TO SET GOOD EXAMPLES?**

- A. Peter told them their motive for being and doing good was—v.12 “**...they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us**”.
- B. Peter had already heard Jesus say this in the Sermon on the Mount—Matt. 5:16.
- C. Paul made this same challenge—1 Cor. 10:31.