

## A Traveler's Guide: An Embassy on Mission

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Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

1 Pet 1:13-2:12

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Peter wrote to believers in a hostile culture. We are increasingly living in what many describe as a hostile culture. We can learn from Peter's letter to believers. We are called to live in our Christ Identity to model Christ.

### **In Christ we are being built as a Spiritual House:**

- 1 Pet 2:4-8 - Christ is the foundation
- Christ is counter cultural and was 'rejected' by the world
- we are to offer spiritual sacrifices (Rm 12:1-2)
- the world may not understand our 'church' language
- because of Gospel we serve 1Pt 1:13; 2:1; 4:1,7
- we are called to live holy in Christ's Identity 1:15,17,18;2:12;3:1,2,16

### **We are to live as foreign ambassadors:**

- Diplomats don't live like those in the country they serve
- Diplomats live with 'home' culture values to serve those with foreign values
- Our live here defined: 1 Pet 2:11-12; 3:15-16

### **Good Ambassadors Ask the culture they serve:**

WHERE:

- where are the places and activities we can meet people?
- where do people in our town experience community?
- are there existing social networks that we can engage?
- WHERE should we be to have missional opportunities?

WHEN:

- what are the patterns and timescales of our neighborhood?
- when are the times we can connect with people?
- how do people organize their time?
- what cultural experiences and celebrations do people value?
- How might these be used as bridges to the gospel?
- WHEN should we be available to have missional opportunities?

WHAT:

- what are people's fears, hopes, and hurts?
- what gospel stories are told in the neighborhood?
- what gives people identity? (Creation)
- how do they account for the wrong in the world? (Fall)
- what is their solution? (Redemption)
- what are their hopes? (Restoration)
- what are the barriers/assumptions that cause people to dismiss the gospel?
- what sins will the gospel first confront and heal?
- what is the good news for people in this neighborhood?

## **Ways God's People Respond:**

- Peter's audience encountered hostility: 1:13;2:13,18;3:8,13;4:1
- Ways to respond
  - passive, keep my head down – conform to social patterns to not draw attention, withdraw & create our own culture
  - hostile & aggressive – fight for my rights; demand others see superiority of God's truth; clamor for power
  - doing good while suffering & serving – believers are called to imitate Christ and repay evil w/ good such that they see Christ in us:  
1 Pet 2:12,15,20,24; 3:1,11,13,17;4:19
- Peter's call sounds like Jeremiah's Call to God's exiles in Babylon Jer 29:7

## **Rethinking our Mission as God's People:**

- We are on mission 1:13 to love & serve 17-18 our world around us
- Viewing the culture as a threat is NOT a good starting point
- But how, if we are not to love the world? 1 Jn 2:15-17
- Remember your identity in Christ - don't go back to old passions 1:14,18
- GOSPEL POWER: God, Sin, Jesus, Faith
- GOSPEL PURPOSE: Creation>Fall>Redemption>Restoration

## **Truths to Remember:**

- Our loyalty is to our new Master (homeland) 1:15
- We are redeemed for a purpose: obedience & service in love 1:22
- God's Word is our source of truth – know it like a good ambassador 1:23-25
- We are God's redeemed people to be ambassadors 2:9-12
- Christ graciously put us in His Body (Church). The Church has 3 primary goals:
  - 1) to serve God in worship
  - 2) to serve one-another in nurture
  - 3) to serve the world in mission

To Think About & Discuss:

- What are some of the implications of Peter saying we are being built into a Spiritual House? What might be some of God's purposes?
- Discuss what are some of the implications of seeing ourselves (believers) as ambassadors: lifestyle; adoption of cultural practices; how settled we become; relating to culture around us.
- Think through the questions an ambassador might ask to get to know the culture around them. How have we done that as believers? How might we do that better?
- What are the 3 primary goals of the Church? How are these related? What have we done well? What have we done poorly? How are these 3 like a 3-legged stool – if one is out of balance the stool doesn't work so well?