

A Traveler's Guide: A Community of Brotherly Love

February 17, 2019

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

1 Pet 1:22-2:3; 2:9-12

Pastor Mark Turner

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 live as ambassadors to serve the culture where God has placed us.

What happens when we live for Christ?

- We come into conflict with culture! 1 Peter 4:2-4
- We are to live as ambassadors... loyal (values) to home country
- We are aliens & strangers like Israel redeemed from Egypt by God Ex 4:23
- 1 Peter 1:1-2 foreknowledge of Father; sanctified by Spirit, obedient to Christ
- Why that order? Appeal back to Israel redeemed from Egypt Ex 19:4-6
- Peter reminds us of God agenda for us: 1 Pet 2:9-12 we are like Israel
- We are to be peculiarly holy 1 Pet 1:15-16 like Israel was supposed to be
- Not just religion – but a change of lifestyle of holiness in all things, all of life

A Different Approach

- We are to be ambassadors to a foreign country
- We've often tried to become more attractive by becoming like the culture
- But we will never compete with the world
- Peter calls us to use our Identity in Christ to be a chosen race...
- Our distinction is a peculiar people saved by God 1 Pet 2:9 (loving community)
- Peter reinforces that idea: 1:22-23; 2:5 with love and sacrifice as the key distinctive of God's people

Humanity desires Relationship (loving community)

- Humanity desires to be accepted or part of the 'in-crowd': fraternities, etc.
- Humanity was created as relational being in God's image
- God is triune relational being and believers are relational beings in community as part of His Family!
- Beware: our desire for community can become sinful: fear of man Prv 29:25
- We often fear being left out or persecuted: Jesus was, we will be: Jn 15:20
- Church is to be a Redeemed Relational Community where love is key!
- - but are we? What is the true reality???
- Does sincere brotherly love define us? 1 Pet 1:22-23
- it should - we are to be holy, full of love 1:16-17, 18-19, 20-22
- A key Purpose of the Gospel: brotherly love on display
- Jesus declared we are to see our love on display Jn 13:34-35
 - So how are we doing?
 - What do you need to do better?
 - How can we as a church do this better?

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