

DISCUSSING THE SERMON:

1. Before getting into the specifics of the sermon, what were your initial reactions and impressions of the sermon or the workbook?
2. The sermon was all about being “strange” as a Christian. When was the last time you felt *out of place*, like you didn’t belong somewhere? How does this relate to being a Christian in our culture?
3. Do you ever find yourself maneuvering through life in such a way as to *avoid* strangeness? Why or why not?
4. How does the gospel liberate from the fear of looking strange?
5. Peter calls us sojourners and exiles. Pastor Mike mentioned that we are strangers and aliens. How did Christ experience this during his lifetime? In what way does this encourage us as believers?
6. In verse 11, Peter urges us to “abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.” What are your initial reactions to this *urging* from Peter? How does this relate us being strangers and exiles?
7. On **page 37** of the study guide it asks about the relationship between the internal war of **2:11** and the external war of **2:12**. Two questions: 1) Do you see this distinction in the passage? 2) Why do you think Peter would address your internal life (“passions”) before addressing your external life (“conduct”)?
8. Pastor Mike taught us that “abstaining from passions” is not a moralistic exercise but “lining you up” so that you may live the way you have truly been designed to work. How is this an advantage to us who are in Christ as we wait for Christ’s kingdom to fully come?
9. Pastor Mike taught us about the typical ways in which we try to engage culture: 1) total withdrawal 2) total compromise, or 3) in the world, but not of it. Which of the first two would you say you lean towards? Why?
10. How does the “third way” serve as the unique way in which God draws unbelievers to himself through our witness?
11. Jesus says something very similar to Peter in Matthew 5:15-16. In what way does Jesus’ use of the word “light” relate to Peter’s message in **2:11-12**?
12. How is Jesus specifically calling you to be a light in your current season?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our next **Membership Class** is Sunday, Nov. 17 from 1:00-3:30.

Next Sunday we are studying **1 Peter 2:13-17**. Complete the questions on **pages 34-37** before this upcoming Sunday.

SERMON SUMMARY

If we actually live faithfully to Jesus, the culture will view us a strange and weird. This is normal and should be expected from unbelievers. So, we remain confident in Jesus that he will draw people to the gospel through our strangeness.

DEFINITIONS

Sojourner: it comes from the Greek word *paroikous* which means a “resident alien,” or someone who is outside of their home.

Day of Visitation: has a dual meaning of when God “visits” someone for salvation, which could refer to the future second coming of Jesus or simply when someone is confronted with the truth of the gospel and becomes a Christian.