

STUDY GUIDE

Benevolent Insurgents

1 Peter 2.11-17

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- Good Friday Worship, April 3rd, 7pm

Opener Question: Ray Cannata loves food, but so do a lot of people. Most people don't make a quest to eat at 700 restaurants. So in other words, Ray is a little extreme in that sense. Is there anything you are a little "over the top" about? Share.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

Read: 1 Peter 2.11-17

1. What impression do you think our society at large has of Christians? Where do you think they get these ideas?
2. "Things seem to be getting worse and worse, so there is no point in trying to change things because the church is getting smaller and more marginalized in America." To what extent do you identify with this statement?
3. What similarities are between our situation and those of Peter and his readers?
4. Ray mentioned two kinds of "passions of the flesh" that the Bible calls us to abstain from. The first comes up in 1 Peter 4:2 - appetites and desires that control us, such as social pressure, lust and substance abuse. The second is in the Greek word *epithoumia* used in this passage ("over-desires"). An over-desire is when a good thing becomes too important. What do you find most helpful in enabling you to abstain from these things?
5. Verse 12, 15-16 - What outcome(s) does Peter expect if we live on mission in the way this passage is describing?
6. Verse 12 - How should Christians face hostility from non-Christians?
7. Ray mentioned several ways to "live among the Gentiles" (engage with our neighbors and our city): take regular walks, spend time on your front porch, join a club, participate in city events, do hospitality. Which of these are you going to apply this spring/summer?

8. What do you love about Cincinnati? What can you celebrate?
9. What problems do you see in our city? How can you move toward the pain?
10. How would you characterize the attitude Peter is prescribing in verses 13-17?

PRAYER

Take some time and pray together as a group: Try this exercise in kingdom prayer: only pray for people who are not in the room. Pray for the city: schools, police, civic workers. Pray for your neighbors and coworkers and classmates. Pray for the gospel to go out.