

# What Now? | Stand Out

## 1 Peter 1:13-2:12

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### **I. We've got to be intentional to live in the present in light of eternity. (1 Peter 1:13)**

*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

—1 Peter 1:13

### **II. Relating to the Culture**

- a. We should separate from it.
- b. We should conform to it.
- c. We should try to change it.

### **III. A Call to Stand Out (1:14-2:12)**

*Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

—1 Peter 2:11-12

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

—1 Peter 1:14-16

a. We've got to be serious about personal holiness. (1:14-21)

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up*

—Ephesians 4:29a

*Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place*

—Ephesians 5:4a

*And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile*

—1 Peter 1:17

*knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

—1 Peter 1:18-21

*Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God*

—1 Peter 1:22-23

b. We've got to be radical in our love for one another. (1:22-2:8)

*So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.*

—1 Peter 2:1

*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

—1 Peter 2:2-3

*you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

—1 Peter 2:5

*...They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

—1 Peter 2:8b

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

—1 Peter 2:9-10

c. We've got to live our lives with the single-minded focus of glorifying God. (2:9-12)

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

—1 Corinthians 10:31

### **III. Questions to Consider**

1. Does our church bring glory to God? (1 Peter 2:9-10)
2. Does my life bring glory to God? (1 Peter 2:11-12)

### **Study Questions**

1. Take a few minutes to discuss the differing ways Christians typically relate to the culture (see below). Talk about your own natural tendency (either in the past or even now). In other

words, which of the following ways have you found yourself relating to the culture as a follower of Jesus.

Separate from the Culture

Conform to the Culture

Try to Change the Culture

2. Read 1 Peter 1:14-21. Why is conformity to the world often easier than standing out from the world? Explain. Talk about any fears you might have when you think about taking a stand in this culture that is often combative towards Christianity. What might you do to overcome such fears? Be specific.
3. Churches don't put a lot of emphasis these days on pursuing personal holiness. Why do you think they steer away from talking about such things? Explain. If you were to pursue personal holiness in your own life, how might that show itself? For example: What behaviors might God ask you to put away? What passion of the flesh might He call you to deny? (See 1 Pt. 2:11 and Matthew 16:24) Also, in light of 1 Peter 1:22-2:3, how is radically loving one another evidence of growing in personal holiness? Explain.
4. Spend some time wrestling with this question: Does my life bring glory to God? Take a few minutes to consider what glorifying God might look like for you. In what areas do you feel you make much of God? Likewise, what are some areas that might need attention so as to bring greater glory to God? How well do you think Southbrook does in bringing glory to God? In other words, does our church faithfully proclaim the excellencies of God (2:9)? Explain. Spend some time praying and asking God to give you (and our church) the courage and strength to take a greater stand in the midst of our culture so as to bring even greater glory to God.