



Epistle of 1 Peter

1 Peter 2:11-12 - Abstain From Fleshly Lusts

How you doin' here?



- *1 Peter 2:11 – “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,”*
 - *Beloved* (used 8 times in this epistle) – Peter is speaking to *believers* here and this begins a whole new section of the epistle not ending until *1 Peter 4:11!*
 - Here’s 5 questions I have for you to ponder in *verse 11.*



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- Why do the first *10 verses* of *1 Peter 1* precede this?
- Why does Peter call them *sojourners and pilgrims*?
- Why is Peter *begging* them?
- What does it mean to *abstain from fleshly lusts*?
- How do *fleshly lusts war against the soul*?
- Why do the first 10 verses of *1 Peter 1* precede this?
 - *1 Peter 2:9,10 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*
 - Do fleshly lusts have any placed here?
- Why does Peter call them *sojourners and pilgrims*?
 - *Sojourners* are *strangers* or settlers having a house in a city *without being citizens* in respect to the rights of citizenship, and *pilgrims* are ones who come from a foreign country.



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How's this for positional truth?

As believers we need to frequently remind ourselves that we're in a foreign country, this is not our home.

– *Phil 3:20 - For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

• And this is also a reminder for all who lived by faith in what God has revealed.

– *Heb 11:13 - These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

– Why is Peter *begging* them?

• *Beg* here is better translated as *admonish* – to warn or reprimand firmly

– Because, this is not who they are!

– Who says positional truth is all about Paul?

– What does it mean to *abstain from fleshly lusts*?

• To *hold oneself off from* or *refrain*.

• What are *fleshly lusts*?



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1 John 2:16 - For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

How do we do this?

– *2 Cor 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

- Why do we do this?

- *1 Cor 10:31 - Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

- How do *fleshly lusts war against the soul?*

- What is the *soul*?

- *Soul* - the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions.

- » Thayer – ‘in so far as it is so constituted that by the right use of the aids offered it by God it can attain its highest end and secure eternal blessedness, the soul regarded as a moral being designed for everlasting life.’

- And what is this *war* all about?



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- *James 4:1 - From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*
- *Gal 5:17 - For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*
- ***1 Peter 2:12 – “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”***
 - *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles,*
 - Constable – ‘Part of the suffering Peter's original readers were experiencing was due evidently to slander from unbelieving Gentile pagans. They appear to have been accusing them unjustly of doing evil.’
 - What’s *honorable among the Gentiles*, i.e. what metrics do they use?
 - *1 Cor 1:23 - but we preach **Christ crucified**, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Gentiles foolishness,*



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- *Titus 2:7,8 - In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing incorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.*
- *James 3:13 - Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with **meekness of wisdom**.*
- *Luther – ‘A good walk does not make us pious, but we must first be pious and believe before we attempt to lead a good course. Faith first receives from God, then love gives to our neighbor.’*
- *that when they speak against you as evildoers*
 - *speak against you* is present active indicative – they do and they will!
 - Why would they *speaking of us as evildoers*, is this only when *our conduct* is less than *honorable*?
 - Notice how this relates to our crucified and risen cornerstone.
 - *John 18:30 - They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.”*
 - » A sign of our identification when our deeds are **honorable**!



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- *they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*
 - *So now they observe our good works, how does this glorify God in the day of visitation?*
 - Perhaps this indicates how our good works may bring unbelievers to the Lord?
 - » *1 Peter 3:1 - Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, **they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;***
 - And then Paul has something about the benefit of our good works too.
 - » *Rom 15:9 - And that the **Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy;** as it is written, **For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.***
 - *But then what does Peter mean when he refers to the day of visitation?*
 - *Day of visitation is interpreted with some controversy!*
 - » ThyWordsTruth.com – ‘This examination of the Greek word translated "visitation" establishes that its use here may have two meanings – one temporal (earthly visitation) and the other eschatological (final visitation or Judgment Day). Each of those meanings can have two purposes – visitation for blessing or for punishment. Commentators take both positions. Translations take both positions.’



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- However, even when unbelievers will bow before the Lord Jesus Christ and they will glorify Him!
 - *Phil 2:10,11 - That at the **name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

