

Honor everyone.
Love the brotherhood.
Fear God.
Honor the emperor.

- a) Honor is no small thing. (2:4, 6, 7)

- b) The two inside lines make a clear distinction between the world and the people of God.

How we relate to one another should surpass even how we honor everyone, including high ranking officials.

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Why is an understanding of what 2:9-10 says about who we are essential to understanding of the instruction that begins in 2:11?
- What are examples of the passions of the flesh that might lure us away from living as Peter is calling us to?
- Discuss: The goal of ministry here at Gulf Coast is the transformation of this church by God's Spirit into the image of God's incarnate Son!
- What did God do when he took on flesh, came into a world of injustice, and dwelled among us? How should this inform our lives?
- How are you doing at honoring the world around us? What about honoring President Biden, or President Trump before him? Do we do more than honor in an ungodly way? Less than?
- Would you describe your attitude toward unbelievers as honor? How might we better honor our neighbors in our community here? How might you better honor unbelievers you know?
- How are we doing at loving this family of God, the specific family where we are, with whom we must forbear and forgive?
- What might it look like to honor people with whom you disagree?

Homeless: A People for Proclamation

Jerry Cisar — August 15, 2021

Text: 1 Peter 2:9-17

Introduction

To be a people for the proclamation of God's excellencies, we must be a people combatting our earthly passions and a people with a new pattern for living, namely the cross.

I. A People for Proclamation (2:9-10)

- A. "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles..." picks up on a theme that has been developed since 1:1, culminating in 2:9-10.
 - i. 2:4-5: like Christ, a living stone, we are living stones

 - ii. 2:9-10: a mosaic of metaphors describing who we are
 - a) A chosen race
 - b) A royal priesthood
 - c) A holy nation
 - d) A people for his own possession
 - Isaiah 43:21
 - e) (10) A people who have experienced God's mercy
 - Hosea 2:23
 - Romans 9:24-25
- B. That you may proclaim the excellencies of him (2:9e)
 - i. Ours is a politic of worship.
 - a) Our King has a strange politic Himself. (Rev. 1:5-6)

- b) We exist to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
 - Living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1)

Douglas Harink: “To sum up simply, [the church] reigns in the world when it worships the slaughtered Lamb in praise and in works.”

II. A People Combatting Their Passions (2:11-12)

- A. “Soul” in the NT and 1 Peter
 - i. Peter speaks of two unseen aspects of the human life:
 - a) *the passions (or desires, NIV) of the flesh*
 - b) *the soul*
 - ii. The “flesh” is the realm of all that is passing away. All that is a part of the old creation and not the new.
 - iii. The “soul” in 1 Peter represents that which is part of the new creation.
 - a) 1 Peter 1:9
 - b) 1 Peter 1:22
 - c) 1 Peter 3:20 “eight lives (woodenly, souls)” who “were brought safely through the water.”
 - iv. There is a war going on in the believer the prize for which is “this salvation.” A salvation that has begun, in Christ, but will not be complete until the day of Christ.

David Fitch: “The gospel is that God is at work already in Christ making the world right, and we are invited personally to participate in this transformation.... In Christ, we are invited to enter a salvation already in motion, of which we must become a part.”

- a) The passions of our flesh are battling against the new creation of which we have become a part, but our new selves are being formed into the likeness of Jesus!

- b) Living in the will of God means not living according to our desires.
 - These are the desires or passions that try to keep us from living the way Peter describes in 3:13—4:11.

- B. Peter emphasizes the importance of our way of life in this letter.
 - i. Peter is not being pragmatic.
 - ii. If it doesn’t “work,” then why should I keep doing it?

III. A People with a New Pattern for Living (2:13-17)

- A. Living in the overlap of the ages
 - i. Not just every human institution, but specifically, to the emperor as supreme, or as one who has authority over you.
 - Phil. 2:3
 - ii. Governors
 - a) Believers are falsely being accused of doing evil (2:12).
 - b) Like Christ’s own trial, the governor can often get it wrong and punish the one who does good.
 - c) This is an invitation to join in the sufferings of Christ.
 - iii. Live as people who are free... as slaves of God. (16a, c).

- B. Honor, love, fear, honor (2:17)