

A Study of 1 Peter

January 24, 2016

1. Understanding "ALIEN"
 - a. A resident born in or belonging to another country who has not acquired citizenship by naturalization.
 - b. Residing under a government or in a country other than that of one's birth without having or obtaining the status of citizenship there.
 - c. Christians and the world. "Christians are born of the Spirit (John 3:8) and not "from the world" but, like Jesus Christ, "from God" (John 15:19).
 - d. We are expected to be different. We are expected to be aliens. We are expected not to sin in our relationship with God or to each other. (1:23)
2. Distance and Identity
 - a. Christians are the outsiders who have diverted from their community by being born again.
 - b. How does this Christian distance from society that is religious and social come about?
 - i. First, it is a *new birth*. (1: 15ff)
 - ii. The new birth transforms us into a living hope and frees people from the meaninglessness of sin and hopelessness of death. (2: 21-25)
 - iii. The encouragement to be different centers primarily on the positive example of a holy God (1:15ff) and of the suffering Christ (2:21ff).
 - iv. The point is not **do not be as our neighbors are** but **do not be as you were!**
3. Peter is telling us, we have to think Eschatological
 - a. We should keep in mind that the call to follow Christ is more effective in changing the unjust persecutions than direct action or retaliation to transform them would ever be.
 - b. So the Christian difference from the society in which we live must have future value. A state of mind that drives us to show others hope; A future home with Christ.
4. Conclusion: Points to ponder
 - a. To be "Alien" means to live your own Christ identity in the face of others in such a way that your belief in the truth of your own convictions are not separated with a respect for the convictions of others.
 - b. When you are secure in your faith and walk with God, you are able to live in the wisdom of difference without fear.
 - c. Peter might be on to something; the longer we live in a righteous walk with Christ you **DO NOT** have to sin.

A message by Kevin McLouth, Intern

Next Week: Pastor Dave Williams
Light, Life and Love: A Series in 1 John – The Word of Life 1:1-4