

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Sunday, October 5, 2025 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 15 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 2:3-9

English Standard Version (ESV)

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** 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. **6** For it stands in Scripture:

*"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

Isaiah 28:16

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

*"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,"*

Psalms 118:22

8 and

*"A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense."*

Isaiah 8:14-15

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

9 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. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep 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.

REVIEW & CONTEXT:

- 1) The Apostle Peter**, was one of the closest disciples to Jesus who initially failed many times, but after being filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost he was a bold and effective preacher and leader for the early church.
- Peter writes to first century believers who were being persecuted. But his letter is also to **all** followers of Jesus who live in a sinful world that is hostile to the ways of God.
- In chapter 1, Peter seeks to lift up their eyes to their great salvation through Jesus Christ. Though rejected by the world, they are chosen and saved by God.
- Ch 2 emphasizes that they each make up the SPIRITUAL HOUSE of God (vs 4-8) as a SPECIAL PEOPLE (vs 9-10) for a SPECIAL PURPOSE — to tell of His glory and grace.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE AND ACT LIKE IT!

1) NOTICE the Apostle Peter's loving, pastoral tone.

'Beloved' — *agapetoi* — an affectionate, spiritual way to set the feel of what he is about to say.

- they are loved by Peter
- they are loved by God

Peter is about to tell them something important, difficult and potentially offensive. As he says it, he wants them to know it is coming from love for them.

11 Beloved, I urge you as *sojourners* and *exiles* to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep 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.

2) Notice Peter's approach is to APPEAL to them, not to COMMAND them.

vs 11 I urge you...

And this is an important point through all of Scripture...

Even when God commands us we are still able to disobey those commands.

The walk of faith involves listening to the urging of God's better way.

No one can make you walk with God.

God goes to great lengths to show you who He is and who you are...

then He calls you to believe and obey. Next, it is up to you.

JOSHUA 24:15

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

3) Notice the emphasis on your IMMIGRATION STATUS! *sojourners and exiles* vs 11

Peter uses two closely related words to make a particular point.

- **sojourners** = *paroikos* — from **para** ('out of') + **oikos** ('house')
- Meaning: Someone who resides temporarily in a foreign land; they live there, work there, and are physically present, but their citizenship lies elsewhere.
- **exiles** = *parepidēmos* — from **para** ('out of') + **epi** ('upon') + **dēmos** ('people, populace')
- Meaning: A temporary visitor, stranger, or traveler passing through.

Together, they capture the true believer's full condition in the world:

We live in the world (as residents), but we do not belong to it (as travelers passing through).

It's a poetic and theological way of saying: **Christians are both "settled" and "unsettled" — we live responsibly in this world while knowing our true citizenship is in heaven.**

PHILIPPIANS 3:17-20

*17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 **But** our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

4) Notice ENEMY #1 is this life's SINFUL THRILLS AND DESIRES.

vs 11 *abstain from the passions of the flesh*

What are the passions of the flesh?

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| — they aren't <u>spiritual</u> | they are <u>fleshly</u> (appeals to senses) |
| — they aren't <u>eternal</u> | they are <u>passing away</u> |
| — they aren't <u>holy</u> | they are <u>profane</u> |

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to **abstain from the passions of the flesh**, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep 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.

What are '**the passions of the flesh**'? They aren't only sexual.

1 JOHN 2:16

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

The passions of the flesh are all the evils of humanity's sinful nature.

GALATIANS 5:19-21

19 Now the **works of the flesh** are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

5) Notice that these **passions of the flesh** wage war against your soul. vs 11

This war on your soul promises everything but delivers nothing but misery.

Before becoming a Christian NO ONE has true victory in the war of the flesh.

EPHESIANS 2:1-3

And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

But God gives every true believer a NEW HEART when they are converted to Christ.

PSALM 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you;

Yet the passions of the flesh still rage and war against this new heart and identity in Christ.

ROMANS 7:14-23

14 For we know that the law is **spiritual**, but I am of **the flesh**, sold under sin. **15** For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. **16** Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. **17** So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. **18** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. **22** For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, **23** but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

For the true Christian, the **war** is WON, but the **battle** rages on.

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So HOW can we have victory in this war against our soul? ONLY ONE WAY.

The Holy Spirit's PRESENCE and POWER in your life gives victory over our flesh.

GALATIANS 2:20

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I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GALATIANS 5:16-24

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

6) Notice that when Christians live in spiritual victory over their fleshly desires then non-believers will come to see God and glorify Him. vs 12

Non-believers will often accuse and ridicule God's people. Just don't give them a reason to!

Think of the early Christians... accused of insurrection, incest, cannibalism, even atheism because the Roman culture didn't understand true Christian beliefs.

Instead, we live so that when they really look at our lives, some of them will come to see God.

The Day of Visitation: the day when God brings either BLESSING or JUDGMENT.

(see Judges 13:2-23; Ruth 1:6; 1 Samuel 3:2-21; Psalm 65:9; 106:4; Zechariah 10:3)

For true Christians the Day of Visitation is all about God's ultimate redemption and reward!

APPLICATION IN YOUR LIFE:

- 1) Have you been transformed to a new life in Christ? (Repentance and faith)
- 2) What passions of the flesh are waging war on your soul? (anger, lust, greed, selfishness?)
- 3) What actions can you take to crucify the flesh and surrender to the Spirit?