

Having An Impact In Society

Sermon Outline:

Lives that point people to Jesus

1 Peter 2:11-12 – ‘Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from the sinful desires that wage war against your souls. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.’

1. Framing this section of the Bible (1 Peter 2:11-3:7)

a) The ‘big idea’ – 1 Peter 2:11-12

Living in such a way that we commend the gospel to unbelievers around us

b) Key themes

i) Doing good

1 Peter 2:12, 20; 3:6

Mirroring the wonderful mercy and kindness of God

ii) For the Lord’s sake

1 Peter 2:13, 19-20; 3:4

The primary motivation is to honour the Lord

iii) Freely submit

1 Peter 2:13, 18; 3:1

Voluntarily coming under others

c) Three case studies

i) 1 Peter 2:13-17 – How believers commend Jesus to non-Christian authorities (today)

ii) 1 Peter 2:18-25 – How believing slaves commend Jesus to their non-Christian masters (next week)

iii) 1 Peter 3:1-7 – How believers commend Jesus to their non-Christian spouses (week 3)

2. Submitting to human authorities (1 Peter 2:13-17)

- Submit

- For the Lord's sake

- Doing good

3. What does it mean for us in the 21st century?

- a) Proper respect and honour to human authority

- b) There are limits to our obedience/submission

- c) To what degree should we engage in the political process?

- d) Remember we are firstly citizens of heaven

Don't underestimate the impact of 'doing good'

1 Peter 2:12 – 'Live such good lives among the pagans that ... they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.'