



1 Peter

Silencing the Critics

1 Peter 2:11-12

Study Guide

1. As we advance through 1 Peter we now come to a turning point. The first half of this letter has been given primarily to the development of certain doctrinal themes (holiness, 1:15; love, 1:22; the nature of the church, 2:5). The new emphasis will be upon the practical application of the wonderful truths of redemption. This shift in focus is introduced by 2:11-12. Read through the remainder of 1 Peter to notice some of the issues that are dealt with. Why is it appropriate that Peter addresses his readers as “beloved?” What does this tell us about the apostle’s attitude toward the churches of Asia Minor? One lesson that this teaches us is the importance of tenderness when applying the Word of God. Are you more apt to listen to someone if you are assured of their love for you?
2. Christians are identified as “aliens and strangers.” You will remember that Peter began his letter with similar words (1:1). What do these terms tell us about ourselves as believers? Where is the Christian’s ultimate loyalty and destination? How should this truth affect the way we conduct our daily lives? Write down some very specific things (e.g. finances, short term and long term goals).
3. The Christian life is not like a relaxing float down a lazy flowing stream. It is a battle all the way to the gates of glory. One major battle zone is within the soul. What are some of those desires that wage war against the believer (Gal. 5:13-25)? What desire(s) are especially threatening to you? According to what Peter says (“abstain from fleshly lusts”), are our sinful desires controllable or uncontrollable? Does the fact that we are born with certain sinful desires mean that they must be acted upon? Give some examples of how this assumption is communicated in modern society (i.e., that we are to follow our feelings).
4. In 1 Peter 2:12 a positive reason is given for the Christian pilgrim’s abstinence from sinful desires. What is that reason? What are some of the possible good effects of consistent Christian living? What is meant by “the day of visitation?” Can you think of any instances when a Christian’s godly life has resulted in the conversion of a lost person?
5. Based on the two truths taught in 1 Peter 2:11-12 about Christian ethics (abstaining from following sinful passions and maintaining good conduct among nonbelievers), what is the most effective way for the church to impact society in our day? Try to think in very specific terms as you answer this. What kind of influence is your own life having upon those around you (work, school, neighborhood, etc.)? Are you around non-Christians enough? What can you do to change this if you are not?