

Week Five

Chosen Exiles: Life Before Unbelievers

Studies in 1 Peter for the White Station Church of Christ

*These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into **1 Peter 2:11-17***

Video 1 – A World We Cannot Imagine!

1. Which of these words “fit” the Roman Empire of the first century (circle): gender equality, democracy, slavery, indulgence, cruelty, marital fidelity, orgies, charity, drunkenness.
2. Explain each of the choices you made in Question #1.
3. What rumors and false charges were circulated about Christians in the first several decades of the church? Where do you think those claims originated? What motivated them?
4. What does the video mean by claiming “We tend to be a-historical when we read the New Testament”? Can you think of a situation where it creates problems for Bible study?
5. What are some of the common values (even among non-Christians) that were introduced into the world by Christianity?

Video 2 – The Christian’s Alternative Lifestyle

1. What does the term “flesh” mean in this text? How have we sometimes misunderstood the flesh-spirit contrast in Scripture?
2. Why were Christians sometimes thought to be “atheists” in Roman culture? What made that charge believable to so many people?
3. How does Plato’s *Apology* help us understand the charge of atheism against Christians?
4. Why was/is it so critical for Christians to abstain from what Peter calls the “desires of the flesh”? How have you seen failures of character destroy someone’s credibility for Christ?
5. Positively, Peter calls for “honorable” behavior by Christians. From the text, what actions were at the heart of being “honorable” in Roman culture?

Video 3 – How Christians Honor “Human Institutions”

1. Why was the charge of “treason” leveled against Jesus and his original followers?
2. How were Christians expected to show they are good citizens – without making the quasi-religion confession “Caesar is Lord”?
3. Peter’s instruction implies that some Christians may have been tempted to misuse their “freedom” in Christ. How might that have happened? How does it happen today?
4. Christians are encouraged in these verses to be “model citizens” to Rome. What qualification is assumed in this counsel? Cf. Acts 5:29.
5. What is “Christian nationalism”? What threat does it present to the church today? How do we avoid it in an election year?