**Christians and the World** *1 Peter 2:11-12*

**Introduction**

1. Christians are those who God has allowed entrance into His kingdom (cf. Colossians 1:13).
2. Christ said His kingdom was not *“of this world”* (cf. John 18:36).
3. If the kingdom is not of this world, then neither are its citizens. The kingdom and its citizens are spiritual.
4. However, this does not mean Christians have no involvement with the world.
5. 1 Peter 2:11-12 shows some connections/responsibilities we have with/to the world.
6. Our Relationship to the world. *(“I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims”)*
7. Sojourners and Pilgrims.

* Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16
  + Abraham and his family could do what God said because they treated this world as a temporary place.
* Philippians 3:17-21
  + The Gentiles serve their own belly. This is their end, and utmost joy. Christians look to something better.
  + We often view “enemies of the cross” as individuals with a special agenda to wreak havoc upon the church in any way they possibly can.
    - However, it is often that they are carrying on about their own life, except they are enemies of God (cf. James 4:4).

1. Our Encounter with the world. *(“abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”)*
2. Worldly Lusts War against the Soul, 2:11

* Galatians 5:16-17
  + These opposites are constantly causing us to make decisions.
* Ephesians 6:10-12
  + This is a spiritual warfare that requires spiritual defenses and weapons. We must equip ourselves with these.

1. Abstain from Fleshly Lusts

* 1 John 2:16-17
  + We abstain from these things because they aren’t of God, and they are temporary.

1. Our Behavior in the world. (“*having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles*”)
2. Honorable Conduct, 2:12

* Colossians 3:5-10.
  + Because we have been raised with Christ our behavior must change.

1. Our Courage in the world. *(“that when they speak against you as evildoers”)*
2. Your Good will be Evil Spoken of, 2:12

* 1 Peter 3:13-17
  + The world’s relationship with us (or against us) should not cause us to be troubled.
  + We have confidence/courage because of the reason for our suffering.

1. Courage and Faith mustn’t waiver.

* Daniel 2 (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego thrown into fiery furnace.)
* Daniel 6 (Daniel thrown into lions den.)
  + Both showed to be very influential. (Nebuchadnezzar praised God, Darius Honored God)

1. Our Occupation in the world. *(“they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation”*)
2. You Get their Attention by Your Life, 2:12

* Matthew 5:13-16
  + Part of God’s strategy to make disciples involves those who are already disciples acting like disciples should.

1. God Gets their Soul with the Gospel, 2:12

* Romans 1:16 (10:13-15).
  + God’s word is sufficient for salvation, but His plan was for His word to be spread via disciples.

**Conclusion**

1. Christians are not of the world, but we are not completely absent from the world.
2. We have responsibilities placed upon us by God in relation to the world.
3. Are you as you should be as a Christian living before the world?