**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 **(cf. Romans 8:9-11).**
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 11:13**
  + 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. 🡪
  + **2 Peter 3:11-13** – This earth will be destroyed. We look forward to an eternal abode with our Father.
  + ***“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind” (Isaiah 65:17).***
    - ***The superiority of the new is so much that we will not think about or long for what was in the past. We need to consider this now even while on earth.***

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

* Christians are those who no longer yield to the lusts of the flesh **(Galatians 5:24-25)**.
* We will fail to reach heaven if we do – **Galatians 6:8**

1. Our Behavior in the world. **(“*having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles*”)**

* Honorable Conduct, 2:12
  + **1 Peter 3:1-4** – A believing wife to an unbelieving husband.
    - Just because they are not Christians does not suggest our conduct should differ than if they were.
    - We are to live to please God even amongst those in the world.
  + **The world is watching and we must make sure we are living acceptably – *“Walk properly toward those who are outside” (1 Thessalonians 4:12).***

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 3:16-18** (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego thrown into fiery furnace.)
* **Daniel 6:10** (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

* **Daniel 6:24-27 (Darius honors God after Daniel is delivered by Him.)**
  + **Many in the world have a misunderstanding about Christianity. They think Christians to be hypocrites who are good in church but don’t live right in everyday life.**
  + **When they see otherwise they will understand the power of God and be influenced to serve Him themselves.**

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?