

1 Peter 2:11-12

War Against the Soul & God's Glory



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1 Peter 2:11-12

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

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1 Peter 2:11

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners/aliens and exiles/strangers

- *Beloved*-Those loved of God
- *I urge you*-I beseech you/strongly urge you
– Same as **Romans 12:1** “*I appeal/beseech you*”

Now Peter reminds his readers that they **are** sojourners/exiles

- He identifies them as aliens/strangers

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1 Peter 2:11

As a Christian, why am I a sojourner/exile?

- You were born again (1 Peter 1:23)
- You are a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:17)
 - Your new nature is contrary to the world, it's ways, it thinking, it's people, it's god (Why would you expect to fit in)
 - **2 Corinthians 4:4** *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Psalm 119:19 *I am a sojourner on earth*

Philippians 3:20 *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*

We are sojourners/aliens/exiles/strangers/foreigners

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1 Peter 2:11

You **are** loved of God, you **are** sojourners/exiles and Peter is urging/beseeching you to:

Abstain from the passions of the flesh (fleshly lusts) which wage war against your soul.

There is a war going on right now for your soul

- Are you aware of this war
- Are you active or passive in this war

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1 Peter 2:11

What makes you such a stranger to this world:

- The world is oblivious to this war (for the soul)
- The more you are engaged in this war, the more you will be perceived as an outcast (fool)
 - “Taking things too far” “too serious”
 - “Take it easy, relax”

Your soul is at stake

You cannot fight your way into the kingdom of heaven but the evidence you are in the kingdom of heaven is the fight in you (The Christian life is NOT passive)

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1 Peter 2:11

What is this war against?

Passions (lusts) of the flesh: (Desire)

This is an inward battle

Galatians 5:16-21 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the **desires of the flesh**.¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.¹⁹ Now **the works of the flesh** are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, **and things like these.** (War against the soul) I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

What is our war against?

Desires of the flesh which lead to works of the flesh

- Anything you find rising up inside you that would lead you to a work of the flesh is a desire of the flesh, and you must make war with it!
- **Abstain** from the passions of the flesh
- The *passions of the flesh* are deceitful (must be so careful)

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1 Peter 2:11

There is no coasting in the Christian life:

- You can never put your guard down
- Have you been deceived?
 - Are you becoming hard to sin? Numb? Losing sensitivity?
 - Are you tempting yourself to be tempted?

The admonition is “Abstain” not entertain (present/middle)

- **1 Thess 4:3** *For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that you **abstain** from sexual immorality, that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness & honor, **not in the passions of lust** like the Gentiles who do not know God*
- **1 Thess 5:22** ***Abstain** from every form (appearance) of evil*

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1 Peter 2:11

Personal assessment:

- In your war on fleshly desires/passions are you growing in sensitivity or becoming more hard/numb?

2 Corinthians 10:5 *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ*

- As you engage in the seriousness of this war do not expect the world, or false converts around you to understand why you are so serious

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life*

1 Timothy 4:16 *Keep a close watch on yourself and your teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

- Where do you turn for your life filter regarding relationships, entertainment, etc?

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1 Peter 2:11

The war is a war within:

James 1:13-15 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

We battle desires within (flesh) and we guard our hearts from the world, which feeds sinful desires.

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1 Peter 2:12

If you are winning the war of the soul by abstaining from passions/desires of the flesh you will be “*keeping your conduct (manor of life) among the Gentiles honorable*”

We do not put on external morality, we begin with the heart/desires (Matt 15:19)

How do we nurture our heart/desires? Feast on truth/Jesus & pray

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1 Peter 2:12

As we are “keeping our conduct among the Gentiles honorable”, what will be their initial response?

“v12 so that when they speak against you as evildoers”

Matthew 5:10-11 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*

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1 Peter 2:12

v12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Do not measure your conduct by other's response but by obedience to God's word.

God has chosen our conduct/behavior as a mean's by which the lost will observe and glorify God.

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1 Peter 2:12

The sum of all this is the glory of God

- It all begins and ends here
- Everything finds its purpose here

Conduct your life in such a way that others would see your lifestyle and glorify God

- Does what I am doing, thinking about, watching, laughing about, participating in glorify God

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