

Participant Handout

Week 2: Christ, Christians, and the Culture Wars

Focus Scripture

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge... As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (1 Peter 2:11-12, 16-17)

Taking It Home Exercises

- ∞ Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. What promise do we find in verses 6 and 7? What hope does this give us for living in a culture of many divisions? Ask God to help you remain focused on this hope despite the divisions and conflicts that may come your way.
- ∞ Read 1 Peter 2:1-10. What do these verses say about the role that Christians are to have in the world? Does this make a difference in the way you are living your life? Prayerfully consider what changes God may be calling you to make.
- ∞ Read 1 Peter 3:8-17. What guidance about living in relationship to others do you find in the first few verses of this passage? How are we to respond to others? What does this passage tell us about suffering? How do the last two verses make you feel? Turn your thoughts into a heartfelt prayer.
- ∞ Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. What do these verses say about society? The final verse in this passage encourages us to live in a way that trusts God for our actions and our speech. How can you do that this week? What does it mean to say that when we speak, we are to speak as if we are speaking the very words of God? Pray, asking God to help you do this today.
- ∞ Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. According to the first few verses, what can help us to be a bridge in our society? Our culture is one that is often full of temptations. What do these verses say about resisting temptation? In what ways can you rely on God today/this week?