

LifeStyle Evangelism
1 Peter 2:11-12

I. Introduction

- A. How often do we hear someone say they don't have any interest in Christianity BECAUSE OF HOW SOME CHRISTIAN LIVED?**
- B. MacArthur Lawyer story...**
- C. McClaren: World READS US NOT the BIBLE!**
- D. Matt 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."**
- E. Proposition: Tonight STUDY HOW God USES YOUR BEHAVIOR – MANNER of LIFE – LIFESTYLE, to LEAD PEOPLE to HIM for SALVATION. Three parts to Life-Style Evangelism!**
1. You should have the Right Perspective
 2. You should have the Right Behavior
 3. You should have the Right Purpose

F. TURN TO Passage to read... 1 Peter 2:9-12

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

II. Have the Right Perspective

V.11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers...

A. Beloved.

1. One of my favorite NT terms!
 - a) Perfect Tense title for Christians
 - b) God set His love you in eternity past and the results of that love continue and continue.
2. New Section – "Beloved" SUMS up ALL of PREVIOUS SECTION!
3. SO – Yes, you are BELOVED of GOD BUT also are...

B. aliens and strangers...

1. Now begins sections of particular designation!
2. ALL about SUBMISSION to GOD THROUGH various ROLES!
 - a) v.11-12 ALIENS and STRANGERS
 - b) v.13-17 CITIZENS

- c) v.18-25 SERVANTS/WORK
- d) 3:1-7 HOME (wives then husbands)
- e) 3:8-12 OVERALL

3. Aliens and Strangers – If you don't understand this, you don't understand this book!

- a) Peter Opened this letter to the ALIENS AND STRANGERS!
- b) First DESIGNATION is at a WORLD LEVEL!
 - (1) Beloved of GOD vs.
 - (2) Aliens/strangers in the WORLD.

4. Aliens

- a) Literally: "alongside the house"

5. Strangers

- a) "person making a brief stay – sojourner going through – passing through!"
- b) What a word!
 - (1) Day-mos = district, country
 - (2) EPI-day-mos = to be at home
 - (3) Para epi-day-mos = to be away from being at home!
- c) Prefer "Sojourner" to "stranger" – SAYS MORE ABOUT TRAVELING in a DIFFERENT PLACE THAN HOME!

6. Together

- a) Emphasizes that DON'T BELONG HERE!
- b) we LIVE ALONGSIDE AND are PASSING THROUGH.
- c) This IS NOT OUR HOME!
 - (1) Our citizenship is IN HEAVEN (Phil 3:20)
 - (2) Our life is HID WITH CHRIST – IN HEAVEN (Col 3:3)
 - (3) Peter defines our HOME as an INHERITANCE!
 - (a) Undefined, unfading, imperishable
 - (b) NO WAY TO DEFINE IN POSITIVE TERMS!
 - (c) Its INCOMPREHENSIBLE!
- d) Many Christians OPERATE as-if they want God to make HEAVEN LIKE EARTH
- e) NO - Our whole goal of everything we do is in 1:7
 - (1) NOT for the perishable gold
 - (2) BUT for the praise and honor and glory at the revelation of JC!
 - (3) WE live for THAT APPROVAL – not DOWN HERE!
 - (4) Bad statement: Don't be so heavenly minded that you're no earthly good!
 - (5) Should be: Don't be so earthly minded that you're no heavenly good!

f) John puts it opposite – 1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

C. Picture

1. For ONCE the Bible has a MODERN Metaphor! - ALIENS!
2. One of the most vivid metaphors in the Bible.

D. Practical Application

1. Think about traveling to a distant, foreign place! PERFECT METAPHOR
2. TRAVEL LIGHT – stick to necessities – ACQUIRE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN TAKE HOME
3. STICK to YOUR PURPOSE THERE!
 - a) Do what you came to do
 - b) Don't get entangled in local life, etc.
4. You're ON GOOD BEHAVIOR when you travel!
 - a) Like to know / follow laws carefully
5. Your different culture IS OBVIOUS to ALL
 - a) Affects behavior!
 - b) Get more opportunity to talk about your TRUE HOME!
6. MISS YOUR HOME! LONG FOR IT! LOOK FORWARD to RETURNING!
7. Guess what? ALL THAT FITS THIS PASSAGE!
8. JUST KEEP THE PERSPECTIVE OF A TRAVELER – A STRANGER in a STRANGE LAND!

E. Start: You SHOULD have the Right Perspective

III. (2) Have the Right Behavior (v.11b-12a)

11 I urge you...to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,

Two sides! WRONG Behavior and RIGHT Behavior! = Put OFF and Put ON

A. Don't have the WRONG BEHAVIOR...

1. "I urge You!"

- a) In spite of ALL God has done for us – He doesn't DEMAND here – HE URGES US!
- b) NO COMMANDS in these 2 VERSES!
- c) Simply "I CONTINUOUSLY URGE YOU!"
- d) SO APPROPRIATE for Peter's AUDIENCE
 - (1) In FIERY ORDEALS (4:12)
 - (2) Sharing the Sufferings of Christ (4:13)

- (3) Suffering according to the will of God! (4:19)
- (4) Just TOLD ALL OF THEIR Spiritual Privileges of their position!
- (5) Now – IN LIGHT OF THESE I URGE YOU TO LET YOUR LIFE BE MY WITNESS!

2. **to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul**

a) **to abstain**

- (1) Literally: HOLD ONESELF AWAY from fleshly lust =STAY AWAY FROM them!
- (2) Remember NOT A COMMAND: I urge you to abstain!
- (3) Other places command us!

b) **from fleshly lusts**

- (1) = Desires of your fallen nature!
 - (a) Souls are saved = NEW
 - (b) BUT are STUCK in UNREDEEMED FLESH!
 - (c) Fleshly LUSTS = STRONG CRAVINGS FOR SIN!
 - (i) LUST = over desire, controlling desire

(2) Lust comes from the FLESH!

James 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

(a) ALL SIN IS RELATED TO LUST!

- (b) = Gal 5:19 stuff! = Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

(3) OPPOSITE of CRAVING the PURE MILK of the WORD!

(4) NOTICE – From Jas 1, even James 4:1-3

- (a) Problems of LUST come from INSIDE US!
- (b) However, there are Problems that come from OUTSIDE us!
- (c) Look at v.12 so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers...

- (i) This pass covers two types of problems – INTERNAL and EXTERNAL
- (ii) Answer is same to both!
- (iii) Godly behavior!

(5) What is the problem with Fleshly lusts?

3. **which wage war against the soul**

- a) **"which"** = which are SUCH A NATURE as
- b) = which BY THEIR VERY NATURE WAGE WAR AGAINST THE SOUL!

- c) It is the NATURE of your UNREDEEMED FLESH to WAGE WAR against YOUR SOUL!
- d) Paul: Romans 7:18; 23
 - (1) 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;
 - (2) 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war
- e) “wage war” = military CAMPAIGN – NOT just ONE BATTLE
 - (1) their NATURE is to CONTINUALLY battle the soul!
 - (2) Peter is PERSONIFYING fleshly lusts as an ARMY WARRING against the SOUL!
- f) John tells us in 1 John that LUSTS are NOT from the FATHER AND they are PASSING away (1John 2:15-17)
 - (1) NO WONDER they WAGE WAR against the soul!
 - (2) They’re NOT FROM GOD!
- g) SO PUT off FLESHLY LUSTS!
- h) Now the opposite side – the PUT ON side:

B. Have the RIGHT BEHAVIOR

12a Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles,

1. Literally: Amongst people CONTINUALLY HAVE GOOD Manner of Life!
2. “Keep”
 - a) NOT a COMMAND – Still part or URGING!
 - b) =CONTINUOUSLY KEEP
3. “Behavior”
 - a) Peter uses this word 6 TIMES in this letter! AND 2X in 2 Peter -IMPORTANT!
 - b) PETER is ALL ABOUT HOW YOU LIVE!
 - c) Literally= your MANNER of LIFE
 - (1) All encompassing term for how you live
 - (2) First saw it in 1:15... but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;:
 - (3) Then in 1:18 – you were redeemed from your FUTILE WAY of LIFE!
4. “Excellent” = Rich word = HIGHEST GOODNESS!
 - a) =Moral goodness
 - b) =Everything God tells us to do in Scripture!
5. “Among the Gentiles”=unsaved world!
 - a) The GOODNESS of your life must be VISIBLE to the unsaved world!
 - b) A bad example of visibility of behavior: 1 Cor 5:1

It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife.

 - (1) Wrong kind of visibility!

C. How does Peter tell you to deal with this?

1. WRONG BEHAVIOR: ABSTAIN – Don't DO IT!
2. RIGHT BEHAVIOR – OBEY GOD!
3. Nothing Vague here!

D. So –

1. You SHOULD have the RIGHT PERSPECTIVE
 - a) Beloved of God / Aliens & Strangers
2. You SHOULD have the RIGHT BEHAVIOR
 - a) Excellent behavior and NOT fleshly lust
3. You SHOULD...

IV. (3) Have the Right Purpose

V.12B ...so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

A. *One Author's Paraphrase: In the Very thing they slander you, you will prove them wrong and lead them to the gospel.*

B. so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers,

1. SO THAT = PURPOSE for PUTTING OFF fleshly lust and KEEPING a good manner of life!
2. "SLANDER you" = Speak evil against you
3. "as EVILDOERS" = person who does evil WHO SHOULD BE PUNISHED = CRIMINAL
 - a) Actually a Term of ABUSE for Christians
 - b) Look at the next two verses (v.13-14)

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
(1) Evildoers are to be punished!
4. Here you are WRONGLY accused but in 4:15 Peter exhorts you to make sure you are really an evildoer because that suffering doesn't glorify God!

15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

C. they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them,

1. Straightforward meaning
2. "observe" = CONTINUALLY observe OVER TIME
 - a) CONSISTENT with BEHAVIOR= MANNER OF LIFE!

D. glorify God in the day of visitation.

1. "day of visitation"
 - a) Common OT phrase

(1) God visits for either BLESSING or JUDGMENT

(2) Exodus from Egypt, Hannah from barrenness, See in the prophets etc.

b) NT: VISIT for SALVATION

(1) Luke 19:44 Israel to be JUDGED because she didn't RECOGNIZE time of visitation

(2) Didn't recognize TIME GOD visited to SAVE THEM!

E. Life Style Evangelism =

1. You SHOULD have the RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

a) Beloved of God / Aliens & Strangers

2. You SHOULD have the RIGHT BEHAVIOR

a) Excellent behavior and NOT fleshly lust

3. You SHOULD have the RIGHT PURPOSE

a) Keep in mind what GOD is DOING with your manner of life!

V. CONCLUSION

A. Does this say that sharing the Gospel is NOT important! NO

1. BUT in TRIALS – WHEN BAD IS HAPPENING TO YOU
2. GOD says YOU OPEN THE DOOR by GIVING back the EXACT OPPOSITE of WHAT YOU are RECEIVING!
3. THE CONTRAST is DIRECT and IMMEDIATE and IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO NOTICE!
4. God DOESN'T SAY that it WILL OPEN the DOOR to SHARING THE GOSPEL
5. NO – MORE THAN THAT – YOU LIFE will have a DIRECT BEARING on their SALVATION

B. Peter covers this again in Chapter 4!

1 Peter 4:2-5 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4 In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; **(ties to v.12 of chapter 2!)** 5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1. Other side of the COIN!
 - a) If they don't glorify God
 - b) They will be JUDGED for WHAT they did to you!
 - c) Why? THEIR SIN ISN'T AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS!
 - d) They FACE THE WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT!

C. REALITY for US?

1. HOME
2. OFFICE
3. NEIGHBORHOOD

D. ASK YOURSELF –

1. HOW is my LIFE a WITNESS? TO...
 - a) Unsaved -WIFE? HUSBAND?
 - b) Unsaved – SON? DAUGHTER?
 - (1) Is my behavior LEADING my UNSAVED SON towards SALVATION or AWAY?
 - c) Unsaved – NEIGHBORS? BOSS? CO-WORKERS?
 - d) Look at 1 Peter 3:1-2
 - 1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,
 - 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.
 - e) WON WITHOUT A WORD!
 - f) BEHAVIOR – NOT WORDS!
 - g) Direct Application by Peter
 - h) How many times have we shared gospel ONLY TO HEAR – I KNEW a CHRISTIAN ONCE who was the WORST EXAMPLE – I DON'T want you Christianity BECAUSE OF HIM!
 - i) Pastor with the DISHONEST LAWYER story!
 - j) If you're HIM – CUT IT OUT!

E. Take this to PRAYER – Ask God to show you YOUR HEART! – TO CONVICT YOU of things UNSEEN!**F. STUDY THE WORD with APPLICATION INTENDED!**

Joshua 1:8 “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

1. Meditate SO THAT you will BE CAREFUL TO DO!

G. Let's go LIVE so that GOD CAN USE it for the SALVATION OF OTHERS!