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Group Guide

Living in Submission

February 8, 2026

Main Passage: 1 Peter 2:11-17

Theological Theme

As citizens of heaven (not the world), we should resist sinful desires and live honorably, submitting to authority God has put in place.

Introduction

Have you ever been in a situation where you made a godly choice that confused or surprised the people around you?

What other examples do we see of this in Scripture?

1. Abstain from Sinful Desires (1 Peter 2:11)

In this new section of Peter's letter (marked by the opening of "dear friends," v.11), Peter called his readers to good works, even when it doesn't make sense by human standards. This is exceptionally hard to do.

What does it mean that God's people are strangers and exiles in the world? Consider those who were literally exiles in the Old Testament. How might this inform our understanding of this idea?

How is this connected to our calling to "abstain from sinful desires"?

How have you experienced the tension of the desires of the flesh warring against the desires of the Spirit in daily life?

2. Conduct Yourselves Honorably (1 Peter 2:12)

Following his previous guidance to "abstain from sinful desires" (v. 11), Peter said to "conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles" (v. 12). Living honorably here means to follow Jesus's example and live as God calls us, regardless of what our culture deems appropriate or "good." We are held to a higher standard.

- ④ What do you think it meant for Peter's original audience to conduct themselves honorably among the Gentiles? What does it mean for us today?
- ④ What was the goal of living this way among others? How does this still apply today?
- ④ How might godly living give you opportunity to point others to Jesus daily?

3. Submit to Authority (1 Peter 2:13-17)

In our current cultural moment, "submit" is a word many don't like to hear. We embrace personal freedoms and buck against that inhibits our ideas of freedom. Peter told his readers to submit to human authority "because of the Lord" (v. 13). This may seem in conflict, but Paul taught the same thing in Romans 13:1-2.

- ④ Peter wrote practically regarding the authority of the time in these verses. How might this translate to our lives today?
- ④ What type of submission did Peter call for in this passage? How can we submit as free people?
- ④ How does submission to Christ actually bring about true freedom?

Conclusion

- ④ Why is it tempting to live the way our culture does instead of the way God calls us to live as strangers and exiles on earth? How do we pursue this daily?
- ④ How can our group seek to live honorably among others together? How does this build up the body of Christ?
- ④ How might living honorably among others give you opportunity for gospel conversations this week?