

Elect Exiles

1 Peter 1:1-2

Sermon Discussion Guide

Summary

The book of 1 Peter is written by Peter to “elect exiles” who are dispersed across Asia Minor which is present day Turkey. The theme of exiles is a major theme of 1 Peter. An exile is a foreigner, sojourner, or temporary resident in a foreign land. Christians are exiles because God has chosen and saved us, which means we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom with a heavenly king. This means that we will regularly feel out of place in the society we were born into.

Illustrations

- Australian guy at a birthday party
- Lifeguard uses megaphone to warn about rip tide
- Grammys and Fox News

Comprehension and Application

1. What is an exile? What did it mean that the recipients of this letter were exiles? What does it mean that Christians are exiles today?
2. What is a kingdom? Are there earthly kingdoms today? What does it mean to be American... what values and loyalties do most Americans have? What do Christians have in common that is different than the culture around us [read 1 Peter 2:9-10]?
 - a. What are issues that divide our country? (race, wealth, politics, etc.) As Christians, what kind of unity should we have with people who are different from us in these ways?
3. What does this mean: “We are who we are because of what God has done: chosen by God, to be part of God’s people, His kingdom.” How is this idea connected to the gospel?
4. Mark said, “Our nationality doesn’t define us. Christians are citizens of a different kingdom.” As Christians, what is our core identity? Do you find that it is ever difficult to remember your identity in Christ in the midst of living where you do? Tell us...
5. As exiles, why are we going to feel out of place in so many contexts in this world? What are we supposed to do with these out of place feelings?
6. How should we treat foreigners around us? (Ex.23:9; Lev. 19:34) Why?
7. What in this discussion about identity and kingdom has been challenging for you? What aspect of your life do you think God is challenging you to grow?
8. Mark opened the sermon by challenging the church to read through 1 Peter all in one sitting once a week for a few weeks. This is a great group challenge.

Extended Outline

The author is Peter. An apostle of Jesus Christ. He is writing to Christians, “elect exiles,” “of the Dispersion” - spread out throughout Asia Minor. Present day Turkey. Written at some point in the early 60s.

“elect exiles.” They are exiles. Foreigners. Sojourners. Temporary residents in a foreign land. This is a major theme of 1 Peter. How to live as a Christian within the larger unbelieving society – family – workplace. Our commitment to Christ will inevitably lead us to out of step with the surrounding society. **See this theme in 1 Peter 1:17; 2:11.**

Purpose of book: See **1 Peter 5:12-13** – Exhorting / this is the true grace / stand firm.

1. Causes of our exile.

- a. We are “ELECT” exiles – chosen by God.
 - i. Your exiled status because of man’s rejection, but God’s election.
 - ii. **App:** We are who we are because of what God has done: Chosen by God, to be part of God’s people, His kingdom.
 - iii. **1 Peter 2:9-10** - A chosen race. We are part of a different kingdom.
 1. A term used of Israel in the Old Testament.
 - a. V10 - Now, God’s chosen people are united **not** by a common bloodline or nationality, but by a common Savior – by the mercy of God.
 - b. **App:** Our nationality doesn’t define us. Christians are citizens of a different kingdom.
 2. **Illus:** For OT Israel, they were not to settle down and conform to Egyptian culture. Or to Babylonian culture.
 3. **App:** In the same way, wherever a Christian lives today, we are in a foreign land. And we must not settle down and conform to our society.
 - iv. Our American citizenship is not your primary citizenship.
 1. **App:** Being an American cannot be our core identity or where we give our total loyalty. Christians, Our King, told us to seek His kingdom first.
- b. **Christians have a different king.** “for obedience to Jesus Christ.”
 1. A Christian is committed to uncompromising and unqualified obedience to Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord.
 - ii. Every society has its loyalties, its values, the things it cherishes.
 1. Our loyalty to Jesus Christ will cause us to have different priorities, different morality, different way of thinking, make different comments.
 2. **App:** Will lead us to parent differently, do marriage differently, deal with a difficult boss differently, retire differently, use our Sundays differently, means we seek to love those others cast off and malign. Will mean we don’t watch the same things, and so we are left out of certain conversations. At times, we will seem foreign, out of place.
- c. **Christians have experienced a radical change.**

- i. “In the sanctification of the Spirit.” – Set apart by the Spirit.
- ii. Talking about the supernatural work of God, by which He changes a Christian’s heart. Look at verse 3 – Born again.
 - 1. A radical change, leading to a fundamentally different life.
- iii. **App:** Let’s not be too quick to convince everyone we are just like them.

2. Consequences of our exile.

- a. Opportunity to witness
 - i. **Illus:** Australian guy at a birthday party.
 - 1. God places us in society. He calls us to be different, so that we can point people to the King.
 - ii. Examples: 1 Peter 2:9 1 Peter 3:14-15
 - 1. **Illus:** Early church grew not by isolating, and not by going with the cultural winds of Rome, but by being distinct.
- b. Going to feel out of place.
 - i. 1 Peter 1:14-15 – A daily tension in the way we live. 2:11.
 - ii. **Illus:** Lifeguard uses megaphone to say, “stay away from the rip tide.” Peter is like that lifeguard. Don’t get caught.
 - iii. **App:** If you do feel completely at home, one of 2 things: (1) you have isolated yourself. (2) you have conformed yourself.
- c. At times we will be treated like foreigners. – 2:12; 3:16, 4:4, 4:12-14
 - i. “Their new allegiance to God in Christ has so loosened their ties to the society in which they live that they have been met with the ignorance, suspicion, and verbal abuse typically directed by natives against those who do not share the history, traditions, customs, loyalties, and deities of the local populace.” – qtd. In Jobes, 44.
 - ii. **App:** That is painful.
 - 1. **Secondary App:** God also says that this should make believers compassionate toward foreigners around us.
 - a. Ex. 23:9 – “You shall not oppress a sojourner. **You know the heart of a sojourner**, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.” Also Leviticus 19:34

3. Consolation for the exile.

- a. Right at the outset, Peter is reminding them who they are.
- b. God chose you.
 - i. He reminded them to encourage. So did Jesus, and Paul.
 - 1. John 15:16 and 2 Timothy 1:9
- c. Christ died for you.
 - i. For us, God made us part of His through the death of Jesus Christ.
 - ii. **App:** God’s sovereign, merciful choice, and Christ’s loving, sacrificial death has made you who you are. Know who you are, remember who you are, so you will live how God calls you to live in this world: As elect exiles.
- d. As you go into your home this week. To work this week. To your neighborhood this week. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.