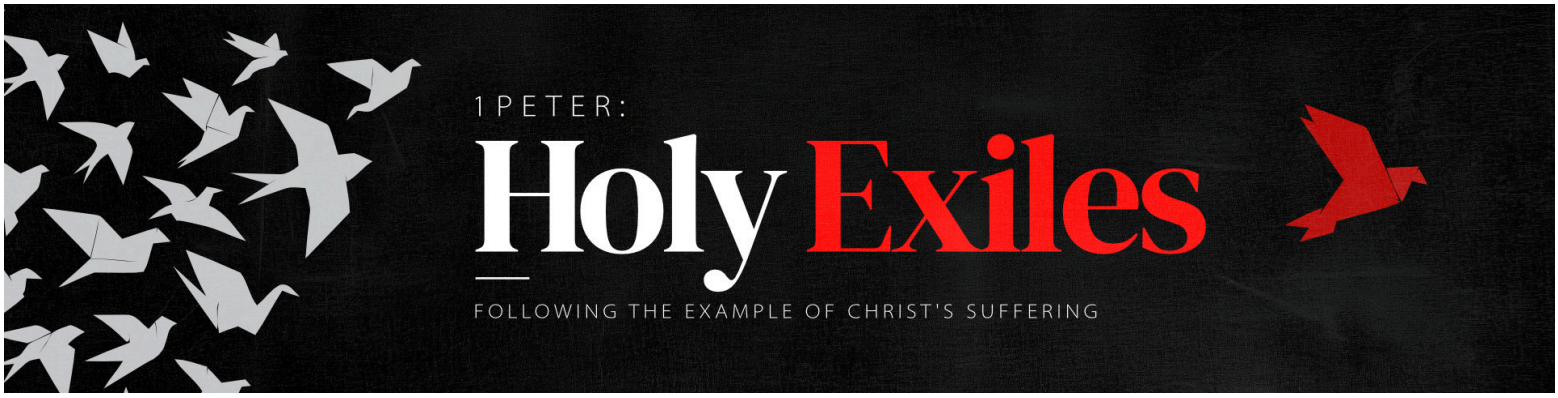


1 Peter 2:11-17

Getting Started…

Politics. It's the thing you don't want to talk about or want to talk about way too much. It is what we have decided is not to be discussed in polite company. However, the Bible does have things to say about how we talk about those who hold authority and it is very different from the way many discussions are held. God calls us to honour those in authority, pray for them, and submit to them. While that is not our natural response to authority, God calls us to use our Christian witness, even how we respond to authority, in such a way that glorifies Him. Afterall, the goal of our life is not that people would agree with our political stance, but that they would come to know and trust Jesus as Lord and saviour.

Read the Text: 1 Peter 2:11-17

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.
13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Understanding the Word

1. In verses 11-12, Peter is concluding the section of the letter that began back in 1:13. How do these two verses summarize the point he has been making about holiness?

2. Peter gives a clear command to Christians about how we are to respond to authority. How does the phrase, "for the Lord's sake" in vs 13 help us understand the purpose and extent of this command?

Reflecting on the Sermon

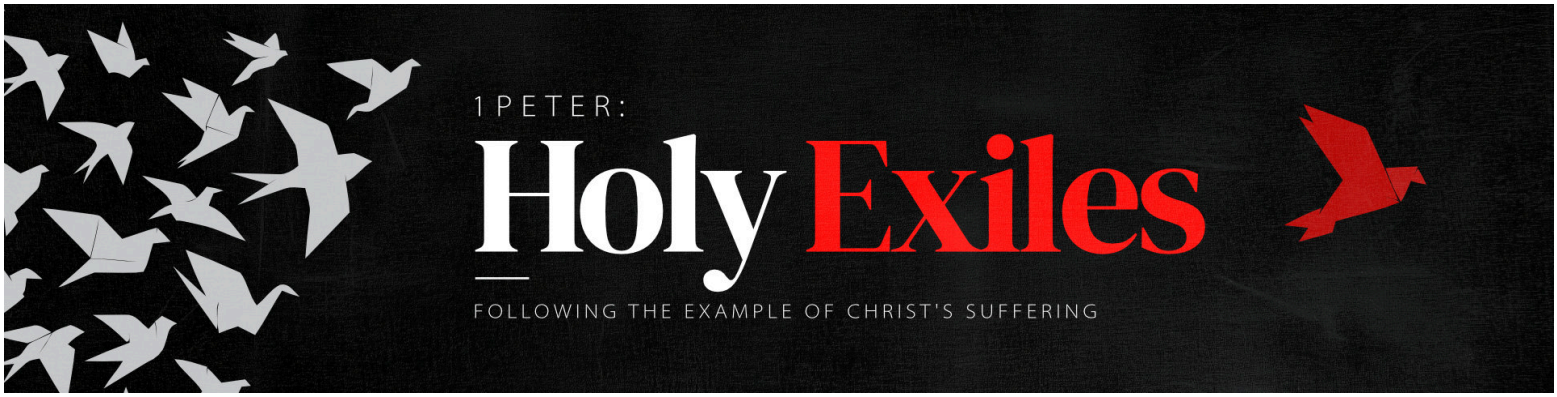
3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

Applying the Point

5. How can you practically show people a holy life that points to Jesus without coming across as prideful, hypocritical, or just "too good" for others? What makes the difference?
6. How do we naturally respond to people in authority? Are we rebellious or placating? How do we properly submit ourselves to authority, honouring them, without falling into either pitfall?
7. What freedoms do we have as believers? How do we make sure our freedom lead us to greater holiness and serving God instead of becoming an excuse for greater sin?

Praying & Sharing

1. How can you share what you have learned with… another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God**.

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - *Psalm 111:2*