

was loved by His Father. As a result, He was able to undergo suffering and to die on the cross for us. When we settle the question of who we are to God, we can be secured in His love. When we are secured in God's love, we will be able to live an unapologetic counter cultural life – one that honours God.

We are called to live as strangers and pilgrims on the earth (v11-12).

There is an urgency for us to abstain from the passions of the flesh. The reminder is for us that as “pilgrims” that we are not part of this world. God calls us to live holy lives, consecrated and set apart for Him. We can do so as God empowers us! In Scripture, we have the example of Daniel. He did not bow down to the idols of his day and walked through suffering and persecution as a result. He was in Babylon, but Babylon was not in him. He is a picture of what it looks like to be faithful and be set apart, expectant for the deliverance of God. The early Christians lived such exemplary and counter-cultural lives that they were able to overcome evils and slanders to survive and thrive in a pagan world, and ultimately, glorify God through their good deeds – see also Matthew 5:16.

We are called to live in submission to the human authorities set in place by God (v13-15).

Part of this counter cultural life is living in submission to the human authorities over us. This is part of what it means to live holy lives. Regardless of how we are treated by the authorities, our posture towards them must be one of submission and not of dishonour. The context when Peter made the call was stunning as the government then were persecuting Christians, putting many to death. Yet, Peter was calling for the church to submit! It comes down to Trust and Humility. We can submit to evil rulers because we trust in God's sovereignty. In John 19:1-16, we see Jesus standing before Pilate saying that Pilate had no power over Him if it is not given from God. In Philippians 2:5-8, we see Jesus willingly embracing humility to be handed over to suffer death on the Cross.

We are called to live in freedom, as servants of God (v16-17).

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus tells us not to fear the powers of this world. We can embrace a life of submission like Jesus did and we can honour the “emperor” in complete freedom as servants because our stay in this world is only temporary.

Discussion Questions

- 1. We are called to live as strangers and pilgrims on the earth (1 Peter 2:11). How should we live in the light of this? [10 mins]**
- 2. Read 1 Peter 2:13-14. We are called to submit and to do so for the Lord's sake. This does not come naturally to us and is counter cultural. Share on the struggles that you face in submitting to human authorities. [15 mins]**
- 3. Read 1 Peter 2:16-17. We are called to fear God and “honour the emperor.” What practical ways can we as Christians live from a place of freedom as bondservants of God? [15 mins]**

WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

- 1. Pray to commit to live a counter-cultural life based on what God values:**
 - by identifying ourselves as strangers and pilgrims on this earth;
 - by living in submission to human authorities set in place by God; and
 - by living as bondservants of God serving His purpose for our lives wherever we are.
- 2. Pray for Phase 2 of the Circuit Breaker:**
 - that God will protect each and every one of us from COVID-19.
 - that the community and dormitory cases will decrease till zero.
 - that all active cases in hospitals and community facilities will be cleared and declared virus-free.
- 3. Pray for God's sovereign control and favour in the global COVID-19 pandemic**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.

"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow
Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

2. Interbank Transfer
RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029

SCAN ME

Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.