

# 1 Peter 1:13-21 Discussion Questions

## Sermon Outline

### Introduction

- The doctrine of Scripture
- We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith, and conduct.
  - I<sup>3</sup>SCAN
    - Inspiration- God is the author of Scripture
    - Illumination- We come to the Scripture entirely dependent on the Spirit to teach
    - Inerrancy- God's Word is whole, true, and trustworthy in everything that it claims about what was, what is and what will be.
    - Sufficiency- Scripture is not lacking in anything necessary for true belief and obedience
    - Clarity- Scripture is clear when read rightly, illuminated by the Spirit, with a heart willing to hear
    - Authority- the Word of God is either completely authoritative for everyone everywhere, or it is not authoritative for anyone anywhere
    - Necessity- Scripture is necessary to know who God is, what He has done, and how we are to respond to him
  - When God speaks, His people respond
- Table of Contents
  - A historic identity (v.9-10)
  - A difficult reality (v.11-12)
  - Faithful citizens (v.13-17)
- **Historic Identity (v.9-10)**
- Historic allusions to Exodus 19, Isaiah 43 and Deuteronomy 7
- **A Difficulty Reality**
- What do you do if the value of your identity is unnoticed or unappreciated in your new context?
- Flesh vs soul
- Good vs evil
- Philippians 2.9-11
- **Faithful Citizens (v.13-17)**
- **Implications**
- Exile is an opportunity to display faithful presence
  - Jeremiah 29.4-10
- Exile is an opportunity to experience the Lord's faithful presence
  - Jeremiah 29.11-15

## Discussion Questions

*Feel free to choose what questions will be most helpful to your group to grow in their understanding of the Scripture and faithfully apply it to their lives.*

Read 1 Peter 2:9-17

1. During the first part of the sermon, Pastor Mike reviewed some of the basic elements of the classic orthodox doctrine of Scripture.

- a. Which of these doctrines do you find the most comforting or encouraging?
- b. Which of these do you have the most difficult with?

2. In vv. 9-10, Peter highlights the incredible identity that God has given us in Christ. Then in v. 12 we find ironically the reality is that the very same identity that is a blessing leads to the world rejecting and slandering us so that we walk in "exile" and are regarded as "evildoers."

- a. How have you seen this play out in your own life?
- b. How have you dealt with it?
- c. How is Peter instructing us to approach this tragic and ironic situation?

3. Peter then moves to explaining one practical way that they can live in a manner that is above reproach while in a hostile situation. They are to live in submission to the institutions of authority that God has put over them.

- a. Why does Peter want them to do this (v. 15)?
- b. What human authority structures has God placed in your life and what does it look like to honor and submit to them?
- c. At the same time, we have a responsibility to "speak the truth in love" as well as fulfilling our civic duty. In our case, that means using the rights

and process that the state has given us to influence our culture for good. How do we balance this with being subject to the government? What does it look like to make use of our rights in a way that is respectful and submissive?

4. What does it look like to honor everyone, especially those we disagree with and/or don't like?
5. How is love different than honor? What then is unique about the way that we are called to related to our brothers and sisters in Christ?
6. Why do you think that Peter would bring up fearing God again in this context (v. 17)? How is "fearing" different than "honoring?"
7. In that time, there was an official imperial cult, meaning that they would worship the emperor as a god. Many cultures do the same. What does it look like for us to "honor the emperor" without worshiping him? What's the difference?
8. Finally, when living in exile there is a tendency in all of us either to attack the culture we live in, isolate ourselves from it, or to be completely absorbed into it.
  - a. Which of these three do you find yourself tending towards and why?
  - b. The biblical approach is to maintain distinctiveness in a way that serves the common good. When society agrees with God, we go along. When it doesn't, we stand against it in a way that still honors it. Practically what does this look like? Pick some examples and work it out.

