

## How to Live as a Stranger in a Strange Land<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 2:11–17 (ESV)

### The necessity of soul care.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. (*cf. Romans 6 – 8; Galatians 5:1-26*)

### Our public persona, . . .

<sup>12</sup> 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.

### . . . which includes our response to human authority.

<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,  
<sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

### Just in case you aren't clear about what God wants.

<sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

### Some clarification about what freedom means.

<sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13–14 (ESV)

### So, to sum things up!

<sup>17</sup> Honor everyone.  
Love the brotherhood.  
Fear God.

---

<sup>1</sup>Message prepared by and shared with the congregation of West Salem Baptist Church by Dr. Paul Null, Sunday, May 10, 2020. Citations from Scripture are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.

Honor the emperor.

## **SPECIAL TOPIC: THE WILL (*Thelēma*) OF GOD**

### **JOHN'S GOSPEL**

Jesus came to do the Father's will (cf. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38)  
to raise up on the last day all whom the Father gave the Son (cf. 6:39)  
that all believe in the Son (cf. 6:29, 40)  
answered prayer related to doing God's will (cf. 9:31 and 1 John 5:14)

### **THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS**

doing God's will is crucial (cf. 7:21)  
doing God's will makes us brothers and sisters with Jesus (cf. Matt. 12:5; Mark 3:35)  
it is not God's will for any to perish (cf. Matt. 18:14; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)  
Calvary was the Father's will for Jesus (cf. Matt. 26:42; Luke 22:42)

### **PAUL'S LETTERS**

the maturity and service of all believers (cf. Rom. 12:1–2)  
believers delivered from this evil age (cf. Gal. 1:4)  
God's will was His redemptive plan (cf. Eph. 1:5, 9, 11)  
believers experiencing and living the Spirit-filled life (cf. Eph. 5:17)  
believers filled with the knowledge of God (cf. Col. 1:9)  
believers made perfect and complete (cf. Col. 4:12)  
believers sanctified (cf. 1 Thess. 4:3)  
believers giving thanks in all things (cf. 1 Thess. 5:18)

### **PETER'S LETTERS**

believers doing right (i.e. submitting to civil authority) and thereby silencing foolish men (cf. 1 Pet. 2:13–15)  
believers suffering (cf. 1 Pet. 3:17; 4:19)  
believers not living self-centered lives (cf. 1 Pet. 4:2)

### **JOHN'S LETTERS**

believers abiding forever (cf. 1 John 2:17)  
believers key to answered prayer (cf. 1 John 5:14)<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Utley, R. J. D. (2000). *The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter* (Vol. Volume 2, pp. 230–233). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.