

“The Plea for a Blameless Life”

1 Peter 2:11-12

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I. Introduction

- A. Peter is writing to Christians who were going through a time of suffering and persecution. They were facing what Peter called a “fiery trial.”
1. The nineteenth-century Scottish preacher Alexander MacLaren commented, *“The world takes its notions of God, most of all, from the people who say that they belong to God’s family. They read us a great deal more than they read the Bible.”*
 2. Peter pleads with them that the best way to answer the persecuted is by living an unimpeachable, blameless life.
 3. We come to a new division in the book of 1 Peter. We move from the purely doctrinal to the practical.
 4. Peter now moves from the grace of God in salvation to the grace of God in submission.
 - a) As citizens (1 Peter 2:13)
 - b) As workers (1 Peter 2:18)
 - c) As marriage partners (1 Peter 3:1)
 - d) As members of the Christian assembly (1 Peter 3:8)
 5. First, Peter pleads with us to live pure and blameless lives. It’s a brief summary, admonition, or preamble to the specific relations that follow.
 6. Three main points to make about Peter’s plea for a blameless life

II. The Plea Itself (1 Peter 2:11)

- A. “Abstain from fleshly lust” (v.11)
1. The word “abstain” is literally “to hold oneself off” or “refrain.”
 2. “Fleshly lust” is a general term to designate all the desires of man’s sinful nature.
 - a) It’s not just speaking of sexual sins, but to any strong desire that is inconsistent with the will of God.
 3. Even though we are born again, we will struggle with the flesh (Romans 7)
 4. It’s often in times of difficulty that people say, “Why should I refrain or abstain? I can’t take it anymore,” and they give in to sinful lusts.
 5. Peter knew from experience the danger.
 - a) Illustration- Jesus said, “The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.”
 6. Works of the flesh (Galatians 5:17-21)
 - a) Adultery (sexual immorality)
 - b) Fornication (impurity)
 - c) Uncleanliness

- d) Lasciviousness (debauchery)
- e) Idolatry (v.20)
- f) Witchcraft
- g) Hatred
- h) Variance (discord)
- i) Emulations (jealousy)
- j) Wrath (fits of rage)
- k) Strife (selfish ambition)
- l) Seditions (dissensions)
- m) Heresies (factions)
- n) Envy (v.21)
- o) Murders
- p) Drunkenness
- 7. “Shall not inherit the Kingdom of God” (v.21)
 - a) The over-indulgence of food or drink
 - b) Lust of the eyes
 - c) Pride of life
 - d) Love of money (covetousness)
- B. Live honestly before the unsaved world (v.12)
 - 1. Not only are we to exercise discipline in the area of fleshly indulgence, but we must also maintain a conduct that is honorable.
 - 2. Live a lovely or beautiful life.
 - a) Same as good works

III. The Purpose for a Blameless Life (1 Peter 2:11)

- A. We are dearly beloved children (v.11)
- B. We are strangers and pilgrims (v.11)
 - 1. “Strangers” or “aliens”
 - a) This world is not our home.
 - b) We are not of this world.
 - 2. “Pilgrims” (v.11)
 - a) We are only here for a short amount of time. Don’t get comfortable.
 - b) Illustration- Abraham- “tent”
 - c) Our citizenship is in Heaven.
 - d) Don’t live for this world and its lusts and pleasures.
 - e) (Matthew 6:33)
 - f) (Colossians 3)
 - 3. “They war against the soul” (v.11)
 - a) “War” is not just a battle; it’s a strategy of warfare.
 - b) We are in a spiritual war, and Satan has a strategy of using your fleshly lust to destroy your soul or Spirit (Ephesians 6)
 - 1) Illustration- Samson and Delilah

- c) Sinful lust wars against you. It tears you down.
- 4. “The world is watching” (v.12b)
 - a) They will speak against you.
 - b) An unimpeachable life will bring glory to God.
 - c) Day of visitation (v.12b)
 - 1) It’s salvation. They get saved by watching you.
 - 2) Illustration- Saul watching Stephen (Acts)
 - d) Jesus said in Matthew, “glorify your Father”
 - 1) Love for the lost

IV. The Place We Should Live a Blameless Life (1 Peter 2:13)

- A. In our city and nation (v.13)
- B. In our workplace (vv.18-25)
- C. In our homes
 - 1. Wives (vv.1-2)
 - 2. Husbands (v.7)
- D. In our church (1 Peter 3:8-11)

V. Conclusion

- A. It’s possible by
 - 1. Surrender
 - 2. Spirit-filled obedience to the Word of God