

Rock of Ages- In but not of.

Sermon Notes

April 5, 2020

*Illustration:

- Coming into Zimbabwe from South Africa being in customs line—not in Kansas anymore.
- Missionaries home was somewhat familiar, but yet different.
- Knew the culture to be effective in it but did not conform to it.

Learned the culture of South Africa and have learned to be respectful within it, but I would not want to conform to it.

In but not of. **1 Peter 2:11-12**

- Have the mindset of a foreigner. (11)
 - Mindset of a sojourner who is merely traveling through.
 - Master the culture in knowing how to engage it effectively.
 - Resides with purpose to serve one greater than self—glory to God.
- Abstain from anything that can pollute your soul. (11b)
 - “to hold oneself constantly back from” BKC
 - The world offers a self-seeking model of citizenship.
 - Glory is given to self and personal achievements.
- Live with such integrity your life points to God. (12)
 - Foreigners are looked upon with skepticism.
 - Foreigners are targeted with greater scrutiny.
 - A life lived with beauty and integrity under this scrutiny points to the glory of God.
- Sinners can become saints as God’s glory is revealed.
 - *“...on the day he visits us.”* Likely referencing a movement of God in the hearts of people when his glory is revealed—a revival. Barnes
 - God wants to change lives, and this is revealed by lives that have been changed.
 - This can only be seen if we have the mindset of a foreigner living among but for a greater purpose.

Christian Conduct that brings glory to God. 1 Peter 2:13-16

1. Life of submission to authority. (13)
 - To one of ultimate earthly authority.
 - To the one who is charged to enforce, punish the lawbreaker, and protect the innocent.

Romans 13:1 *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”*

2. Living a life of goodness. (15)
 - A life that is lawful.
 - A life that serves the good of others.
 - A life that does not serve self.
 - **A life lived above reproach shuts up the foolish accuser—God wants to shut them up!**
 - It is in our good living that God is revealed to the accuser and the seeker.
3. Live as a person set free from sin. (16a)
 - We are set free from sin and condemnation.
 - We should not utilize our release from guilt to rush back into it or license our sinful behavior.
 - This is not setting us free to do as we wish. We submit to God and the authorities he established.
4. Live as one owned by God. (16b)
 - He purchased us with his Son’s blood.
 - We are his special possession. (9)
 - Our lives are for a purpose to bring glory to him.

Christian Motto

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever!” Westminster Shorter Catechism

Mottos Shape Values

USMC Motto- God, Corps, Country.

Core Values guide behavior.

USMC and USN Core Values- Honor, Courage, Commitment

US Army- Respect, Duty, Loyalty, Service, Integrity, Courage, Honor

USAF- Integrity First, Service before Self, Excellence in all we do

Christian Core Values that glorify God. 1 Peter 2:17

1. Respect others.
2. Love the church.
3. Fear God.
4. Honor earthly authorities.

Discussion Questions

- How can God get glory when we respect others? How can we glorify God by respecting when others might be disrespecting us?
- What is the difference between respecting someone and loving on someone? How can you love others who are also in the church, slaves to God like you?
- How does the fear of God look in one's daily life?
- Beyond just being obedient to the President and the governor, what does it look like to actually honor them?
- Kids—Design a card and write a message of thanks and honor to either Governor Tom Wolf or President Donald Trump. Look up the mailing address and send it. They will be thankful to receive it!

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