

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

1 Peter 2:11-17

For Starting

- If your house was burning down, what THREE things would you try to save? Which of the 3 items would be rescued first?
- If you had to live this week over again, would you change anything? If so, what – and why?
- What in this world breaks your heart?
- What does the phrase “being spiritual” mean to you?

For Reviewing

- What does Peter urge us to do (v.11a)? Why (v.11b)?
- Why are Christians encouraged to “live good lives” (v.12)?
- To which human authority are Christians to submit (v.13-14)?
- How should Christians silence “foolish men” (v.15)?
- Who should Christians be eager to serve (v.16)?
- What THREE groups of people does Peter say that Christians should specifically respect (v.17)?

For Discussion

- What is the purpose of government officials? From whom are they “sent?” (v.14) Does this change our attitude to politicians today?
- How does Peter's urging of submission affect our freedom in Christ? How are we free, yet still slaves? See John 8:34-36
- How can our lifestyle *silence* people who criticise the gospel? (v.15: “to muzzle; to reduce to silence”)
- In v.17, Peter asks believers to fear God and honour (respect) the king/emperor. How is fear different from honour? See Matt 10:28
- “*Jesus’ humility and submission were not an evidence of weakness, but of power*”. Do you agree/disagree? Why or why not? How does this impact our Christian lives today?
- What are some possible responses or actions you can take when you disagree with something a Leader says? How can you disagree yet still follow and support the Leaders’ work?
- You could end by reading together 1 Peter 2:17.

1 Peter 2:11-17 (NIVUK)

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. ¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the king.