January 5, 2020

Revolution Church

“For God’s Sake”

1 Peter 2:11-21

**11**Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. **12**Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

Respecting People in Authority

**13**For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, **14**or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

**15**It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. **16**For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. **17**Respect everyone, and love the family of believers.Fear God, and respect the king.

Slaves

**18**You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. **19**For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. **20**Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

**21**For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ sufferedfor you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

* We are reminded by Peter that we do not belong here. He is saying that our claim should not be staked in this world. Our home is in heaven.   
  + Since we really have nothing to claim here for eternity, we can live with our hands held loosely to what has been provided. God and people are worth fighting for, not stuff.
* Honor is counter culture. Being an honorable person brings honor to God.  
  + When you honor others, it brings honor back to you, but most importantly, it honors God. Our culture is defensive, when you aren’t defensive, you begin to influence others towards Christ.
* We are told to be honorable to the leaders God placed over us, but we are also told to submit to the authority placed over us.   
  + The only time we don’t is when this authority wants to make you worship other idols.
* Being a humble servant who honors their authority reveals a strength about you and opens a door of favor that is specific to only you.
  + It takes faith in God to be humble, especially when you don’t want to honor someone you are upset with.

The world teaches us to be nice to those who are nice to you.

The world teaches a “me first” way of enduring life.

The world says what make you happy also make you healthy.

The world says there is only your morality and your definition of truth.

Here is an example of how we are to be at work –

1 Timothy 6:1

**Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.**

We impact the world by proclaiming the Gospel, but even more so, we change the world by being a people who are different. We are to be the Gospel.

There is too much focus on what we do outwardly and not enough on what is going on inwardly with us.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**16** Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

**17** For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

**18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

We are taught that we don’t eat this, we don’t drink that, we can’t wear those clothes, or jewelry is bad, alcohol is of the devil, tattoos are an abomination, we can celebrate this day, but not celebrate that day.

Not all of this is wrong for us to do, but the greater impact is our response from our hearts when the world throws challenges in our face.

We can’t only honor God by what we give up or participate in, but our hearts need to be circumcised first!

Romans 2:29 - **29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.**

Our response and reaction to life tells the truth about our inner man. Our inner man is expected to be different for the Lord’s sake.

Matthew 5:46 - If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.

**Is your inner man changing to be more like Christ? Is your heart sick or is it healthy enough to honor God in the most difficult times?**

Psalm 103:1-5

**1** Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**2** Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

**3** who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

**4** who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

**5** who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Don’t rob your heart of true joy by chasing after betrayers and offenders the rest of your life to demand restitution. God will take care of you.

1 Peter 3:9

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.