



GOD'S GUIDE FOR CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP
I Peter 2:11-17

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I. REMEMBER THAT AS A CHRIST FOLLOWER, YOUR GREATEST ALLEGIANCE IS TO GOD NOT A COUNTRY. (1 Peter 2:11)

1 Peter 2:11 "Dear brothers, you are only visitors here. Since your real home is in heaven, I beg you to keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls." (TLB)

II. LIVE THE MORAL LIFE A CHRIST FOLLOWER IS CALLED TO LIVE. (1 Peter 2:11-12)

A. *1 Peter 2:11-12 "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 unbelievers that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us." (NIV)*

B. People are watching our every move to see what kind of person we are.

1. *1 Peter 2:12 "People who do not believe are living all around you. Live such good lives that they will see the good things you do and will give glory to God."*

2. The hallmark of the Christian life is love.

3. If you listen closely you will hear a lot of motivators in this culture using fear and anger to get you to do what they want you to do. Be on guard with that. It won't lead you to imitate Christ.

C. *1 Peter 2:11 "I urge you to live in this world as strangers and temporary residents, to **keep clear** of the desires of your lower nature for they are always at war with your soul."*

III. YIELD TO **AUTHORITY** FOR THE LORD'S SAKE. (1 Peter 2:13-18)

A. *1 Peter 2:13-14 "For the Lord's sake **yield** to the people who have authority in this world: the king, who is the highest authority, and the leaders who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right."*

B. We are to be respectful to authority. Why? The Bible says, "For the **Lord's** sake."

C. If there's a law that says "Do this" but Biblically it is clearly **wrong** ...then you don't comply.

D. *1 Peter 2:15 "For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men."*

IV. BE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS WITHIN A **DEMOCRACY**. (1 Peter 2:16)

A. *1 Peter 2:16 "Live as **free** men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God."*

B. We are told in 1 Peter 2:16 to do those things that free people are to do to keep their freedom. As free people we have the responsibility to **vote**.

C. As free people we have the responsibility to know what candidates stand for and how their positions line up with the **Bible**. We have the obligation to explore what our candidates believe and stand for and vote them into or out of office in accordance with what our God calls right and wrong.

D. Know what governmental officials are doing and hold them accountable with your vote. That is living as **free** people.

V. LIVE A LIFE OF RESPECT TOWARD **ALL** OTHERS. (1 Peter 2:17)

A. *1 Peter 2:17 "Show respect for everyone. Love Christians everywhere. Fear God and honor the government."*

B. Be respectful toward **everybody**.

C. Love **Christians** everywhere.

D. Fear God and honor the **government**.

