

## Sermon Series: *Personal Evangelism*

5/3/26, “Be Christ Among Them,” 1Peter 2:11-17, MEV

**INTRODUCTION** *would you like to know how to **live** as a witness for Jesus so people see a difference? vs. 16* God has set us free not to be ourselves in the flesh but free to be ourselves in the Spirit

**live as aliens, refugee (Like Jesus)—not like unbelievers**

**1John 2:6, MEV:** Whoever says he remains in Him ought to walk as He walked.

**MAIN IDEA: Live as a witness for Jesus.** How? Here are three things to do.

### **I. First, abstain...from fleshly lusts (11-12)**

**abstain:** hold one’s self off; self-restrain

**Fleshly lusts:** craving from old nature for what is sinful, worldly

- A. fleshly lusts war against our soul
  - 1. make us more selfish, less like Jesus...*angry, caring less about others & about what Jesus wants*
  - 2. we become less attractive—*like most people*
- B. self-control is a fruit of the Spirit
  - 1. evidence of Jesus in us
  - 2. we become sweeter like Him & attractive
  - 3. leading unbelievers to glorify God when He comes
- C. our choice determines our effect...*display Jesus or sinner*
- D. ability to restrain fleshly lusts enables us to submit & love
  - 1. won’t want to submit if sinning
  - 2. unable to love if sinning (God’s love focuses on others; sin focuses us on ourselves)

**ILLUSTRATION:** picture tube charge holds on

### **II. Second, submit...to every human authority (13-15)**

- A. a dying to self
  - 1. will I trust God?

2. God has a plan & a purpose (*for His sake*)

- B. unbelievers are rebellious...*against God & any authority that doesn’t align with their sinful nature*
- C. we are to obey until obedience is ungodly...*even ungodly leaders require godly obedience—don’t lie, don’t murder*
- D. once again, our response determines our effect
  - 1. doing right is different from unbelievers...  
*showing a God-way*
  - 2. or further darkness...*we reinforce ungodliness*

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

### **III. Finally, love...all others as God commands (17)**

**Honor:** show that we value them, to show respect for

- A. showing respect to everyone
  - 1. valuing their lives
  - 2. respecting their right to use their free will
- B. loving brothers & sisters despite our differences
  - 1. respecting their right to make choices
  - 2. standing by them...*not condoning sin, but encouraging them to repent*
- D. fearing God ourselves
  - 1. obeying Him even to our perceived harm
  - 2. because we love, fear, and trust Him

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

### **CONCLUSION:**

### **ALTAR:**