

# You're Not From Around Here, Are You?

1 Peter 1:1-2

Bethany Assembly of God

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- Think (or tell if you're in a group) of a time when you felt like an outsider. It can be humorous or serious.
- Have you ever been somewhere that people looked at you and you could tell they were thinking, "You're not from around here, are ya?"
- Why do you think Peter began his letter talking to God's people as strangers, exiles, outsiders?

## **Big Idea: You should live as an elect exile.**

### **1. You can have confidence in God's call.**

- Tell of a time when you did something sheepishly, and it didn't work out, but when you did it confidently, you were successful.
- Why is it important to have confidence in God's call to salvation in your life?
- What does Peter say about God that can give you that confidence?
- How can you cultivate confidence in God's call?

### **2. You can cooperate with the Holy Spirit.**

- Do you have any "prized possessions?" What are they? How do you protect them? Do you do anything special to care for them? Do you keep certain things out or away from them?
- Since you were made for God's Kingdom, the Holy Spirit is working in your life to make you more like Jesus, the King, and less like this world. That's what we mean by "sanctification."
- How have you felt the Holy Spirit working in your life to sanctify you?
- What are the methods that the Holy Spirit uses to sanctify you?
- How can you cooperate with Him today?

### **3. You can live right with God.**

- What is your mindset when you read the Bible? Do you read it like any other book, or is there something different about it?
- Read Psalm 119:105, Hebrews 4:12, and 2 Timothy 3:16. What are the benefits of God's word in your life?
- How can you increase your hunger for God's word and how can you practice obedience to it?
- While your intentions may be great, we all experience the failure of disobedience as long as we remain in this world. What can reassure your heart and give you confidence to continue when you recognize your faults and sins?

### **4. You can know God's blessing.**

- "Grace and Peace" is not just a sign off at the end of service; it's a blessing God wants to multiply in your life.
- Think of grace and peace in the context of being an exile or outsider. Are these blessings a guarantee of comfort and ease?
- What are some ways God may multiply grace and peace in the life of an elect exile?
- How can you constantly acknowledge God's activity of multiplying grace and peace in your life?

### **Conclusion**

- We are called to live in a way that makes the world say, "You're not from around here, are ya?"
- The cornerstones of that life are confidence in God's call, cooperation with the Holy Spirit, living right with God, and knowing God's blessing.
- Ask yourself, do I live a life that makes the world say, "You're not from around here, are you?" If I do, where are the Holy Spirit and God's Word prompting me to greater sanctification? If not, how are the Holy Spirit and God's Word prompting me to greater sanctification?