

Series: Resident Aliens: A Study of 1 Peter
Lesson: 1 Peter 2:11-25: Holiness in an Unholy World
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1. The Household Code assumes the Kingdom is only as strong as its weakest family.
2. In ancient letters “I urge” indicates the most important point(s).
3. In 1 Peter the most important point is to abstain from fleshly desires (2:11).
4. This becomes problematic in three relationships where claims to authority/lordship can be in competition:
 - a. In Peter’s day, Caesar was Lord/Master.
 - b. Nearly one third of the Roman Empire consisted of slaves, and many Christians came from the poorer classes. In slavery, the owner is Lord/Master.
 - c. In Ancient Rome, women did not have the freedoms American women have today. In their marriages, the husband was Lord/Master.
5. In our dealings with earthly governments, the fleshly desire is not to submit when it is inconvenient.
6. In our dealings with earthly masters, the fleshly desire is to submit when it is convenient.
7. In all our dealings, we must act in such a way as to accomplish the good, imitate Christ, and glorify God.
8. Areas in which I need to improve my attitudes and actions:

Travel Tip #7:

Part of a wife’s submission in the ancient world included accepting the religion of the husband. Graeco-Roman religions, though, were not exclusive. A wife could merely add his to hers. The demand for total commitment to the One Christian God would have presented a problem, especially in the situation Peter envisions. Since Christians married Christians the situation found in 1 Peter 3:1-7 presupposes a converted woman whose husband is an unbeliever. This could produce a tremendous amount of stress and also pose a physical danger for the “rebellious” wife. Obviously Peter’s desire for wives to submit to their husbands is qualified by “purity and reverence” and “a gentle and quiet spirit.” Just as with slaves, one’s submission is limited by God’s definition of what is good. A Christian wife does not surrender grace for a groom.