

1st Peter—Group Study Questions #7

Connecting With One Another

If you were to pause and take an honest ‘snapshot’ of where you find yourself right now—emotionally, physically, spiritually, relationally—are you encouraged, anxious, feeling ‘stretched’ or calm? Note: there is NO ranking of relative stability but only honesty. Spend some time connecting with one another about your real life right now. Any changes from last week?

Entering 1 Peter

Take a few minutes to recall how the previous verses (chapter 2:11,12) began diving into some new material:

- Who specifically are the “dear friends” Peter is addressing?
- How do we as modern readers know that we’re also included as the letter’s recipients and not only as passive observers (if it helps, recall also verses 9 and 10)?
- In what specific ways do Peter’s ancient and modern readers find themselves between what has already happened and what is yet to come? (It might be tangibly helpful to plot events on a sheet of paper)

Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 2:13-17 together out loud—SLOWLY—in one or two different translations (perhaps even in non-English languages if this is helpful).

- Take a moment to share any initial observations, words that puzzle you or catch your attention, ideas that resonate or feel unsettling.
 - Do you recall any ‘echoes’ of words or phrases that Peter uses in his letter thus far, almost like recalling a melody in good musical theatre?
- Why do you suppose Peter inserts the phrase “for the Lord’s sake” in verse 13?
 - *Because we owe the Lord something for services rendered? To echo Jesus’ own demeanour with the authorities of his day? To ground our behaviour from a Godward posture? Other ideas?*
 - How does this change how we think about submitting to governing authorities?
- What is Peter referring when he speaks about “the ignorant talk of foolish men” in v.15? How does the previous text clarify this?
 - How have we experienced this in our own lives, or see this in our own day?

Consider:

- Is “ignorant” necessarily malicious or simply uninformed?
 - What are the consequences and repercussions of listening to such talk?
 - What does Peter counsel regarding practical responses to such ignorance?
 - In verse 17, does Peter come across as repressive OR restorative? What might this mean for us in our own practical behaviour, internet posture and resilience in 2022?
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- How do Peter’s words here challenge you in this cultural moment?

Praying Alongside One Another

- Take time to pray out of what you’ve discussed and shared – praying for one another and others who might also come to mind.
- Pray for each other as individuals, as a group, as Lambrick’s congregation, as God’s expression through us, and others of his people all over the world.