

Living As Foreigners III

- * Do you feel like an alien or foreigner in this world or are you completely comfortable living life with no outside (inside) pressures to your lifestyle?
 - * Does your heart long for something beyond this life or are you satisfied with life as it is?
 - * You and only you can honestly answer where your heart is as it relates to your relationship with Jesus, being like Him and thinking like Him!
 - * Can you honestly state that you are more attached to Him and His Kingdom NOW or are you more attached to this life and existence?
- I. We have been considering scripture and the words of our Lord when we read about us living in this world as foreigners and strangers!
- A. Jesus said, “We are IN the world but not OF the world!”
1. We looked at the story when Jesus held up the coin with Caesar’s image and said, “Give to Caesar that which bears his image but give to God that which bears His!”
 2. That life isn’t about some “Dual Allegiance” but rather a SINGLE ALLEGIANCE to The Lord!

Romans 6:13 (NLT)

13 “Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.”

3. THIS IS NOT A DUAL ALLEGIANCE, THIS IS A COMMAND OF TOTAL ALLEGIANCE TO GOD!
- B. This is not a message of “abandoning this world” or “not respecting and even devaluing this world”, rather it is a

message of “bringing the Kingdom of God into this world!”

2 Corinthians 5:16-20 (International Children’s Bible)

16 From this time on we do not think of anyone as the world does. It is true that in the past we thought of Christ as the world thinks. But we no longer think of him in that way. 17 If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new. The old things have gone; everything is made new! 18 All this is from God. Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself. And God gave us the work of bringing everyone into peace with him. 19 I mean that God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace. 20 So we have been sent to speak for Christ. It is as if God is calling to you through us. We speak for Christ when we beg you to be at peace with God. (Representatives of Heaven to the earth)

- II. The question is, “Do we truly believe we are living from another Kingdom?”
 - A. Do we live from a “single allegiance” to The Lord and His Kingdom or do we still attempt to split our loyalties?

Philippians 1:27 (NLT)

27 “Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.”

1. When do we live as citizens of heaven? Now? Later?
2. The laws that govern your life are the laws of where your citizenship lies!

Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

20 “But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.”

B. This then is seen throughout scripture if we only have eyes to see it!

1 Peter 1:17 (NLT)

17 “And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.”

1 Peter 1:17 (NRSV)

17 “If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.”

1 Peter 1:17 (21st Century King James Version)

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judges according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

1. The Lord expresses over and over again how we are to realize and live life from the standpoint of HEAVEN!
2. In His “Sermon on the Mount” we realize that it is impossible to live life with “one foot relying on the world’s system and standards and the other from Kingdom principles!”
3. Peter goes on to say this:

1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)

11 “Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.”

1 Peter 2:11 (NRSV)

11 “Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.”

1 Peter 2:11 (The Voice)

11 “Beloved, remember you don’t belong in this world. You are resident aliens living in exile, so resist those desires of the flesh that battle against the soul.”

- C. We actually have such wonderful examples of people of faith living this way!

Hebrews 11:13-14 (NLT)

13 All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. 14 Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own.

1. How is it possible to live life from heaven’s perspective?
2. How did Moses and the saints do it?

Hebrews 11:27 (NLT)

27 “It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.”

3. It is by faith...