

Aliens and Strangers: The Life and Letters of Peter
Kingdom Training Class 4: Embrace the Attitude of an Exile (1 Peter 4-5)

Review

- **Introduction:** We are Aliens and Strangers fighting to maintain our distinctiveness
- **Identification** (1 Peter 1): The Narrow Road: *“Call Yourself an Alien”*
- **Imitation** (1 Peter 2-3): Imitate Christ and become imitable by walking “in his steps”
- **Connection** (1 Peter 4-5): Today’s Topic!

1 Peter 4: Empowered by Connection

1. Connection to God is Everything (1 Peter 4:1-6)

- *“learn to think like him... done with sin... pursue what God wants”*
 - Sin separates us from God – we fight to be connected to God
 - Our old habit: expect our own way (Message)
 - Our new attitude: pursue what God wants
- *“they will... give an account to... the judge... the end is near”*
 - Facing eternity, what really matters? **Connection to God**

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3

- Righteous can be defined as “connected” – in a right relationship.
- Jesus summed up his preaching in two simple commands, Love God and Love your neighbor. Be connected to God and to your neighbor.
- The real question should always be, “are you connected to God and to his people?” Are you in a right relationship?

3:18 “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.”

- Christ died to bring you to God...

3:21 “Baptism now saves us”

- Baptism initiated our connection with God
- Peter makes a clear doctrinal statement about the necessity of baptism
- There was no confusion about this in the 1st century

2. Connected To One Another (1 Peter 4:8-11)

- We help others connect with God by using our abilities and strengths
- How do we connect with each other?
 - Aggressively... initiating, forgiving, having each other in our homes
 - Articulately... not grumbling but considering how to encourage with words
 - Actively... using whatever means God has given you to serve others
 - Imitating Jesus!

3. Connected During Trials (1 Peter 4:12-19)

- **Situation:** Persecution and Suffering Under Nero (54-68 AD)
 - 64 AD – Fire in Rome; Peter called Rome “Babylon” (1 Pet 5:13)
 - Roman historian Tacitus in his book Annals
- Suffering is no surprise
 - Sufferings test and refine us
 - Suffering connects us to Christ and to people in a way that no other blessing could
 - Peter’s command: stay connected to overcome trials!

1 Peter 5: Faithful to the End

4. Following the Shepherd (5:1-4)

- *What is an Elder? Older! Shepherd! Imitate Jesus!*

5. Clothed with Humility (5:5-11)

- *Think you can make it without being connected?*
- Isolation causes arrogance
 - God opposes the proud (unconnected)
 - Can’t say, “I don’t need you” (1 Corinthians 12:21)
- Isolation causes anxiety... God wants us to connect with him in our anxieties (5:7)
- Isolation causes us to be unaware... susceptible to attack (5:8 – memory verse)

6. With the help of my friends (1 Peter 5:12-13) “with the help of Silas... and my son Mark”

- **Silas or “Silvanus”**
 - Leader and prophet sent by the Apostles from Jerusalem (Acts 15)
 - Accompanied Paul to Europe on 2nd missionary journey (Acts 15-18); Imprisoned with Paul in Philippi
 - Co-authored 1/2 Thessalonians and 1 Peter
- **John Mark**
 - Mom hosted the prayer time in Acts 12 (Peter’s release from prison)
 - Accompanied Paul and Barnabas on 1st missionary journey (Acts 12-14)
 - Deserted them; Paul interpreted as instability; reconciled later (2 Tim 4)
 - Barnabas, Mark’s cousin (Col 4:10), took him along (Acts 15)
 - Author of Gospel of Mark (see notes from 1st lesson)

Reflection

1. How does connection follow from imitating Jesus?
2. What can I do to improve my connection with God?
3. What can I do to improve my connection with people?
4. What trials am I facing? How can I respond in a way that keeps me connected to God and people during those trials?