

“Beloved, I beg you as
Sojourners and Pilgrims...”

1 Peter 2:11

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”
1 Peter 2:11

- Sojourner - stranger, foreigner, one who lives in a place without right of citizenship (Thayer)
- Pilgrims - one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there beside the natives (Thayer)



“For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” Philippians 3:20

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and **transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:13-14

“And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world...”

- Dress
- Speech
- Activities
- Focus

Dress

“Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible...” Titus 2:2

“Likewise urge young men to sensible;” Titus 2:6

“Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly,...” 1 Timothy 2:9

- Dignified (semnos) - to be venerated for character, honorable
- Sensible (sophron & sophroneo) - to exercise self-control
- Proper (kosmios) - well-arranged; from the Greek kosmos meaning apt or harmonious arrangement.
- Modestly (aidos) - a sense of shame or honor, bashfulness, reverence, regard for others, respect
- Discreetly (sophrosyne) - self-control, soundness of mind

Tough questions on dress:

- Do you dress to get attention?
- Do you dress to accentuate your body or reveal your body?
- Do you dress to conform to your friends or popular fashion?

Speech

“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be **no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting**, which are not fitting, but rather give thanks.”
Ephesians 5:3-4

“Let your speech always be with **grace, as though seasoned with salt**, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.” Colossians 4:6

- Filthiness (aischrotes) - obscenity, base dishonor
- Silly talk (morologia) - buffoonery; compound word from moros and lego; moros is where we get our English word moron.
- Coarse jesting (eutrapelia) - literally means a well-turned comment; in this context it means ribaldry or low jesting (i.e. dirty joke or comment)
- Grace (charis) - that which affords joy, delight
- Seasoned - make savory; derived from the Greek word meaning to elevate

Tough questions on speech:

- Do you speak, text, chat, or email things that are obscene (i.e. words, text/chat slang, pictures, emojis, etc.)?
- Do you tell dirty jokes, stories, or innuendo?
- Do you laugh when a dirty joke or story is told?
- Does every conversation (spoken or written) contain nothing but jokes, silliness, idle banter?
- Do your words (spoken or written) elevate and build up or insult and tear down?

Activities

“For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of **sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties** and abominable idolatries.” 1 Peter 4:3

“For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye** and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” 1 John 2:16

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:17

Lust (epithymia) - desire for what is forbidden

Sensuality (aselgia) - unbridled lust,
shamelessness, lasciviousness, licentiousness

Drunkenness (oinophlygia) - compound of two
Greek words that literally mean bubble up with
wine or overflow with wine

Carousing (komos) - a nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honor of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before houses of male and female friends; hence used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge revelry (Thayer).

Drinking parties (potos) - drinking in a social setting; used in the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Bible in association with feasts involving drinking (e.g. feast celebrating Esther becoming queen in Esther 2:18 or God commanding Jeremiah not to go the house of feasting in Jeremiah 16:8.)

Tough questions involving activities:

- Do you watch movies or television shows with nudity, sexual content, blasphemy, bad language, or improper themes?
- Do you listen to music with bad language, blasphemy, or improper themes?
- Do you read books, magazines that have bad language, blasphemy, sexual content, or improper themes?
- Do you look at internet sites that have bad language, blasphemy, sexual content, nudity, or improper themes?
- Do you participate in (or condone) consumption of alcoholic beverages?
- Do you participate in activities that are sexual or potentially sexual in nature or that might tempt others?

Focus

“Do not **love the world nor the things in the world**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” 1 John 2:15

“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ For the Gentiles **eagerly seek** all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek** first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:31-33

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or **to fix their hope** on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.” 1 Timothy 6:17

- Love (agapao) - to take pleasure in, prize it above other things, be unwilling to abandon it or do without it.
- Eagerly seek (epizeteo) - wish for, crave, demand
- Seek (zeteo) - seek in order to find, strive after
- To fix their hope (elpizo) - hopefully trust in

Tough questions on focus:

- Where does studying God's word fall on your list of daily priorities?
- How do you feel about not being in attendance when the saints meet for worship or Bible studies?
- If you were to list your goals in life, what would be your number one goal?
- Is your confidence and faith in God or things of the world (e.g. money, popularity, friends, family, etc.)?
- Do you seek to please your friends, boss, teachers, or others and in so doing abandon God's expectations?

The epistle to Diognetes (1st or 2nd century manuscript)

5:5 They dwell in their own countries, but only as sojourners; they bear their share in all things as citizens, and they endure all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland is foreign.

5:6 They marry like all other men and they beget children; but they do not cast away their offspring.

5:7 They have their meals in common, but not their wives.

5:8 They find themselves in the flesh, and yet they live not after the flesh.

5:9 Their existence is on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven.

5:10 They obey the established laws, and they surpass the laws in their own lives.

5:11 They love all men, and they are persecuted by all.

5:12 They are ignored, and yet they are condemned. They are put to death, and yet they are endowed with life.

5:13 They are in beggary, and yet they make many rich. They are in want of all things, and yet they abound in all things.

5:14 They are dishonoured, and yet they are glorified in their dishonour. They are evil spoken of, and yet they are vindicated.

5:15 They are reviled, and they bless; they are insulted, and they respect.

5:16 Doing good they are punished as evil-doers; being punished they rejoice, as if they were thereby quickened by life.

5:17 War is waged against them as aliens by the Jews, and persecution is carried on against them by the Greeks, and yet those that hate them cannot tell the reason of their hostility.

Sojourners and Pilgrims

“The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” 1 John 2:17

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” 1 Peter 1:3-4