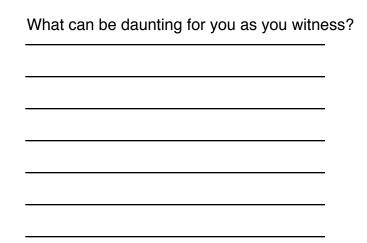
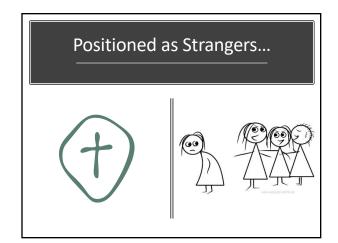


"Sing the songs of Zion"
Singing with our lives
Singing with our words







"W	e just c	lon't fit i	n"		
					_
					_



open hostility to Christianity in 2019

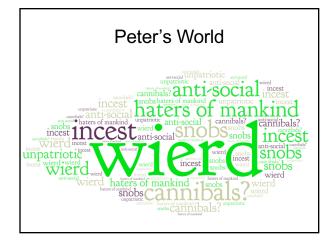


What is the narrative out there about Xians?

Are we known for what we're for?

Are we known for what we're against?

Are the criticisms valid?

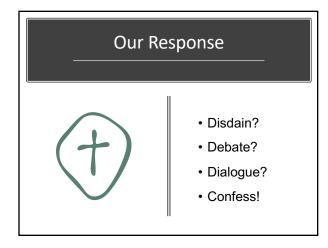


Pietas= piety, loyalty to family, friends, pride

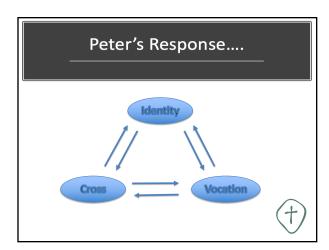
for your city

Rumor mill: Christians are cannibals

Incest?



Isolation	Don't engage!!		
Confrontation	Winners/losers		
Acculturation	Everybody winsbut the truth		



Peter's Response....

• Know who you are....
• Be who you are....
• Bear the cross...

What gives you identity is not your calling

Your callings are expressions of your identity



IDENTITY

- 'To God's elect exiles, scattered...." (1:1)
- "Given new birth into a living hope...born again...through the living and enduring word of God" (1:3, 23)
- "A spiritual house...a holy priesthood" (2:5)
- "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness...now you are the people of God'
- "Foreigners and exiles..."

God chooses you for the refugee life
No "dead hopes"
No "ordinary"
Community rather than individual
ALIENATION + BELONGING



Calling(s)

- "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had..." (1:14) "...have sincere love for each other" (1:22)
- "As foreigners and exiles...abstain from sinful desires which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God" (2:11-12)
- "Submit to the emperor" (2:13)
- "Slaves submit to your masters..." (2:18)
- "Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands so that if any of them do not believe the word they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives" (3:1) "Husbands, be considerate as you live with your wives, treat them with respect" (3:7)

- "Elders...be shepherds of God's flock" (5:2)
 "[Members]...submit to your elders" (5:5)

First war is vs. ourselves

At peace with believers

Living honest, compassionate lives Submit

Submit

Submit

Consideration and respect

Vocation—A Web of Relationships



Cross

- "Now, for a little while, you may suffer grief in all kinds of trials...." (1:8)
- all kinds of trials..." (1:8) and you war against the soul" (2:11) "Slaves..it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God" (2:19) "When they hurled their insults, he did not retailate; when he suffered, he made no threats" (2:23) "On on replay evil for evil, or insult with
- "Do no replay evil for evil, or insult with insult....repay evil with blessing" (3:9)
- insult...repay evil with blessing" (3:9)
 To no fear their threats...but in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentiness and respect (3:14-15)
 "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the flery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice (that) you participate in the sufferings of Christ (4:12-13)



The Christian's struggle				
The holy ordinary				

Headlines and Bottom Lines Evangelical engagement

- · We don't need another hero.
- Let your life give the lie to their lies.
- · Grace under pressure
- "They will know us by our love."
- Love means listening
- · We are always confessing Christ...sometimes we use words.
- Confessing does not mean arguing; it's a song of praise!

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