

*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and temporary residents in the world, to abstain from the desires of the sinful flesh, which war against your soul. Live an honorable life among the Gentiles so that even though they slander you as evildoers, when they observe your noble deeds, they may glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:11-12 (EHV)*



There are times in life we desperately desire to fit in—we long for acceptance and affirmation. So when God calls us “foreigners” and “aliens” it might not seem like a great encouragement.

But it is.

In God’s call to holy living, He points us to see how we are made new in Christ and filled with living hope. We may still look the same to others—but inside we are a new creation! Grace and peace fill our hearts with a longing to be with Him—but He leaves us here on earth with a distinct purpose. And it isn’t to blend in.

God deliberately places us in this world and says the honorable way we live will draw attention to Him. Yet God tells us to prepare for times of suffering and hardship as we live in a way that is countercultural. Our renewed thoughts, actions and desires will make us stand out or be criticized—but God has every intention of using those situations to benefit His Kingdom. That encouragement of hope is a key message in Peter’s letter. God knows our time here is difficult and when He call us “foreigners” He is simply reminding us we’re on our way home. We share His grace on our journey to the place we belong—but until then we will live here for His glory.

—Naomi Schmidt