

 **living stones**
 POSITIONED TO THRIVE



Refugee Songs
*Confident of our Identity, We Speak
 (...and Sometimes, with Words!)*

"Sing the songs of Zion..."

Singing with our lives


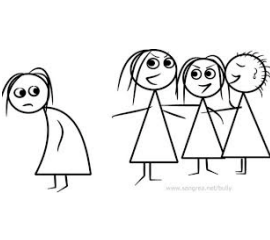
Singing with our words

What makes witness so hard?

What can be daunting for you as you witness?

Positioned as Strangers...

"We just don't fit in"

In a hostile environment...

....open hostility to Christianity in 2019

Our World

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?

Peter's World


Pietas= piety, loyalty to family, friends, pride

for your city

Rumor mill: Christians are cannibals

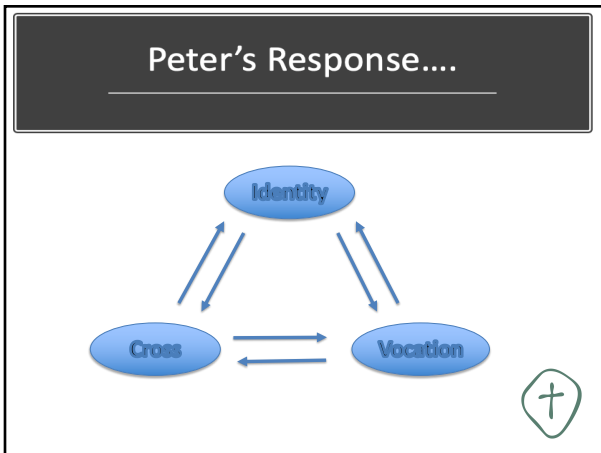
Incest?

Our Response




- Disdain?
- Debate?
- Dialogue?
- Confess!

Isolation	Don't engage!!
Confrontation	Winners/losers
Acculturation	Everybody wins ...but 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

Cross

- "Now, for a little while, you may suffer grief in all kinds of trials..." (1:8)
- "...sinful desires wage 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 retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats" (2:23)
- "Do no repay evil for evil, or insult with insult...repay evil with blessing" (3:9)
- "Do 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 gentleness and respect (3:14-15)
- "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery 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

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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