

Strangers/Sojourners/Pilgrims/Aliens

- *Peter, to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion 1 Pet 1:1*
- *call on him as Father, ... pass the time of your sojourning in fear: 1 Pet 1:17*
- *I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lust, which war against soul 1Pet 2:11*
- *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Heb 11:13*
- Why are God's children strangers and sojourners?

A God who Inhabits Eternity

- *High and Lofty One inhabits eternity, Isa 57:15*
- *the only God, be glory majesty dominion authority before all time, now and forever. Amen. Jude 25*
- *“Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God” Ps. 90:1-2*
- Jesus brought the life lived in eternity from heaven down to earth. He perfectly exhibited the Father.
- *He that has seen Me, has seen the Father. Jn 14:9*
- Those who lived in this world saw His light and rejected it. They rejected Him, the life He came to reveal, and all who follow Him living His lifestyle.

The Clash between Eternity and Time

- *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*
John 3:19-21
- Condemnation occurs before God's judgment seat. All who reject Him and the life He lived. We must be aliens and strangers among them.

A Clash between His World and Ours

- “*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*” Jn. 15:18-20
- This is why we must always be strangers & aliens
- We cannot peacefully co-exist when they demand we become like them and give up Jesus’ ways. When that is the only way to make peace with them, the choice will be thrust upon us.
- *Yes, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.* 2 Tim 3:12

Jesus Made it Clear: We Must Choose

- The cost of full commitment to Jesus has the potential to damage all previous relationships.
- *Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, ... and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’”* Mt. 10:34-37
- There is no direct cause and effect here. Jesus did not want this to happen. It is a consequence. When we must abstain and condemn activities they want us to participate in. That is when it always happens

Jesus Demands Full Commitment

- As we stop “*being conformed*” and begin to “*transform*,” the “*light*” we project becomes as distasteful to those in darkness as the light of Jesus we are reflecting: *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.* 38 *And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.* 39 *He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.* Mt. 10:37-39

Walking the Path to Eternal Life

- After we enter the narrow gate to life.
- The farther down the difficult path we travel the fewer fellow travelers we find.
- Lot was alone in Sodom,
- Jeremiah was alone in Jerusalem,
- We are truly “*strangers and exiles.*”
- *They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you,”* (1Pet. 4:4).
- Without compromise we become more and more isolated.

Can't Peacefully Co-Exist

- *friendship with the world is enmity with God, Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Jas. 4:4*
- *All that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.” (1Jn. 2:16),*
- We are thus forced to become strangers and exiles.
- They want us to side with them in a compromise that would make us an enemy of God.
- Since Jesus was killed and shed His blood because He refused that compromise, we must also refuse it.

A Natural Consequence of Growth

- As we “*put off the old man and put on the new man,*” we become more like Jesus
- But we also have less and less in common with those, no matter how much we loved and respected before, who remain in the world.
- As “*old things pass away and they become new*” our consecrated walk with God leads us to become more and more out of step and strange to those who once knew us when we lived as “*the old man.*”

How we become Exiles

- Once we are “*raised with Christ*,” in baptism and are “*seeking those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God*” Col 3:1
- We will fit in less and less with our friends /family
- Once we “*set our mind on things above, not on things on the earth*,” and “*put to death our members which are on the earth*,” our influence will become less and less palatable with those who won’t make such changes.

The Distinctive Aroma of a Christian

- *For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.* 2Cor. 2:15-16
- Those standing with God: *A fragrance of life.*
- Those in the world: *A fragrance of death.*
- Our “**light**” and “**fragrance**” slowly become:
 - Pleasant and joyous to fellow sojourners.
 - Odious, foul and bitter to those in darkness.
 - In a sense, it is not our battle. But once we choose sides we will be attacked.

Strangers / Exiles will Sigh and Cry

- *Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it. Ezek. 9:4*
- While God will place the mark and we will be saved.
- What can we expect those who commit these abominations to do when we sigh and cry as we sigh and cry against their actions, calling them abominations?

Lot was Sighing and Crying

- *righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 2Pet. 2:7-9*
- How do those committing evil respond:
- *This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them.” Gen. 19:9*

We Must Choose: Mutually Exclusive

- *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."* 2 Cor 6:14-7:1
- We can't go out of the world, but we must not yoked together by any earthly tie.

Our Only Choice

- *Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."*
- *I Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor 6:14-7:1*
- What God demands the world abhors. We are only caught in the middle if we don't choose.

The Choice of Moses: An Exile

- *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.* *Heb 11:24-26*
- Each one of us must make the same choice and once we make it, we too will slowly become and exile and alien.

Mutually Exclusive

- *you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Eph 2:12-13*
- *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, Eph 2:19-21*

The Recompense

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. Heb 11:13-16