

## I Peter 2:11-12

### *Abstain From Fleshly Lusts While Living With Honest Behavior*

#### I. Introduction:

A. The saints to whom this letter was written were reminded that they are the chosen people of God (**I Peter 2:9-10**).

1. Being God's people is not, by itself, enough (**Philippians 3:8-12**).
2. You still have to fight on (**I Timothy 6:12**).

B. As God's children, act like it (**Ephesians 5:1**).

1. Christians have to separate ourselves from worldliness (**II Corinthians 6:14-7:1**).
2. Living so that charges against your character are without any true merit (**Titus 2:7-8**).

II. Body: *"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation"* (**I Peter 2:11-12**).

A. Being beloved (**Matthew 3:17, Acts 15:25, Romans 1:7, Philippians 4:1**, etc.).

1. Peter uses this statement six other times (**I Peter 4:12, II Peter 3:1, II Peter 3:8, II Peter 3:14, II Peter 3:15, II Peter 3:17**).
2. This is just the same as Peter saying "you are dear unto me" to these saints (cf. **I Thessalonians 2:8**).

B. As strangers and pilgrims (**Hebrews 11:8-16**).

1. Living as one who is passing through this world to a greater one to come (**I Peter 1:13-17**).
2. Christians are citizens of the above (**Philippians 3:20-21**).
3. Seeking what is to come (**Hebrews 13:14**).

C. Abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul (**Romans 13:13-14**).

1. Such are deceitful lusts that corrupt (**Ephesians 4:22**).
2. Such were to be put off (**Galatians 5:24**).
3. The internal war that comes about from giving place to fleshly lusts (**Galatians 5:16-17**).
4. If one is carnally minded, we know that person cannot please God (**Romans 8:5-8**).
5. The fact is, carnality stands in the way of the truth (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**).

D. Honest [good; virtuous] conduct, manner of life [Strong's' # 391] (**James 3:13**).

1. Think about the faithful Christian woman married to a non-Christian man (**I Peter 3:1-6**).
2. You have been purchased out of vain conduct (**I Peter 1:18-19**).

3. We should be troubled by wicked conduct rather than being participants in such (**II Peter 2:6-7**).

4. Live so that you are not giving someone the proverbial stick to beat you with (**I Timothy 5:14**).

5. You can know that, if you are living faithfully so the world sees you, the false chargers are likely to arise at some point (**Matthew 5:11**, **Luke 6:22-23**, and **Romans 3:8**).

6. When inspected, do your works defend you to the glory of God (**I Peter 3:14-17**)?

E. Saints need to be aware that are those waiting to catch the righteous saying or doing something they can lay charges against (**Luke 11:53-54**).

1. Yes, you're being watched (**Psalms 37:32**).

2. No, they will not honestly examine you (**Psalms 56:5-6**).

3. To some degree (**\*Luke 16:15**), you should care what others see in your conduct (**Romans 12:17** and **Philippians 2:14-16**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study: *“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God”* (**I Peter 2:13-16**).