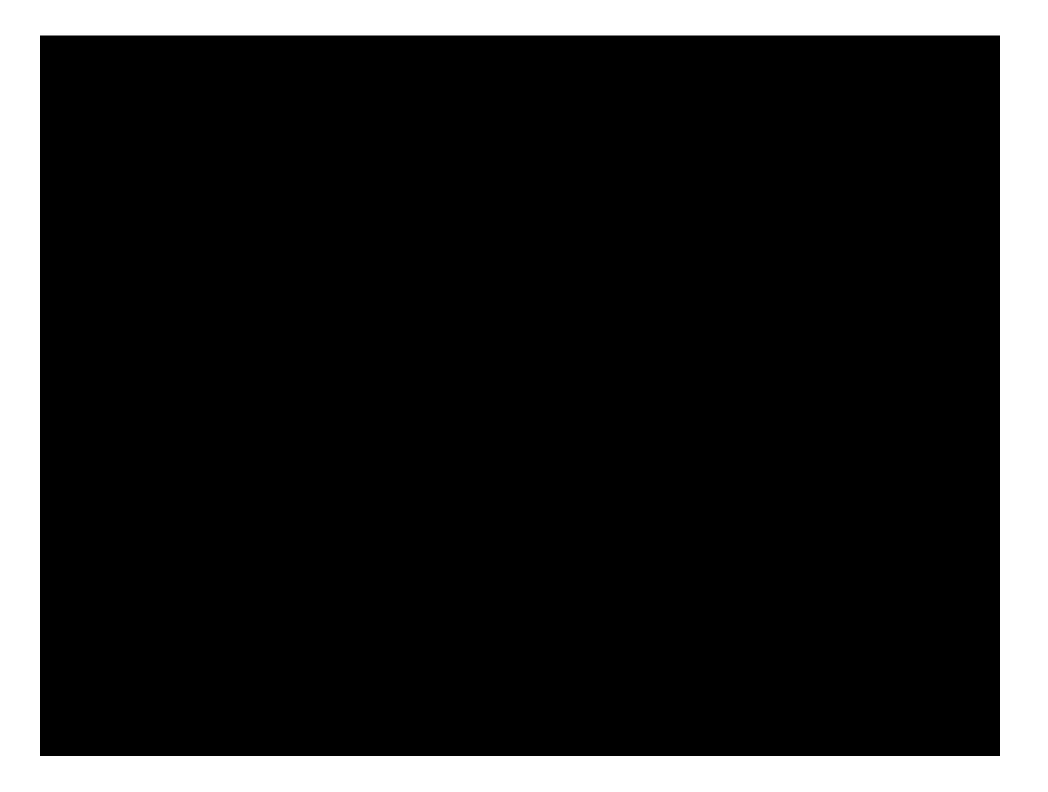
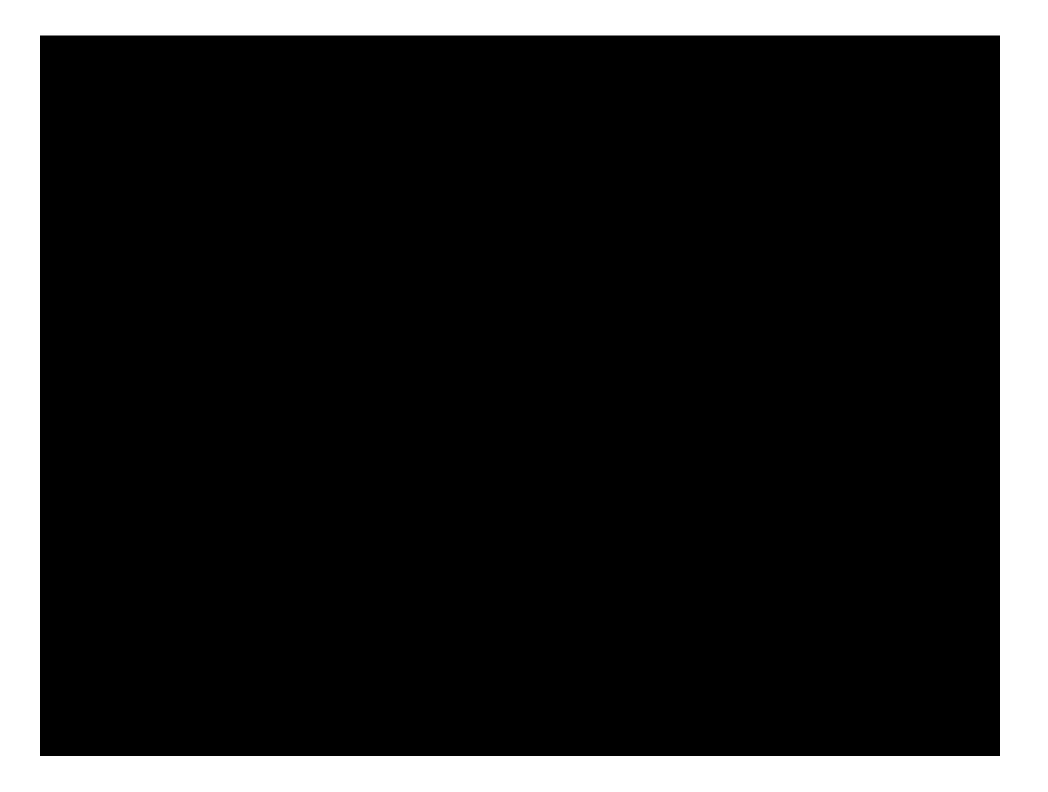


But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9



Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

1 Peter 2:12



Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

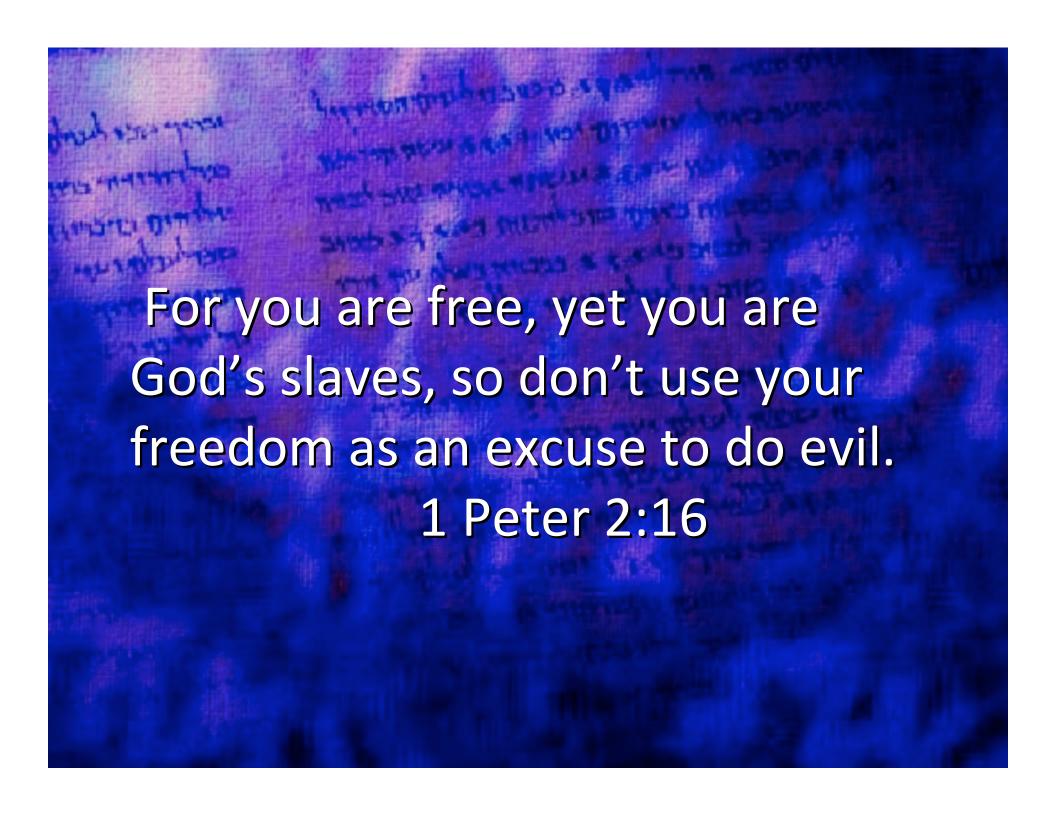
1 Peter 2:11

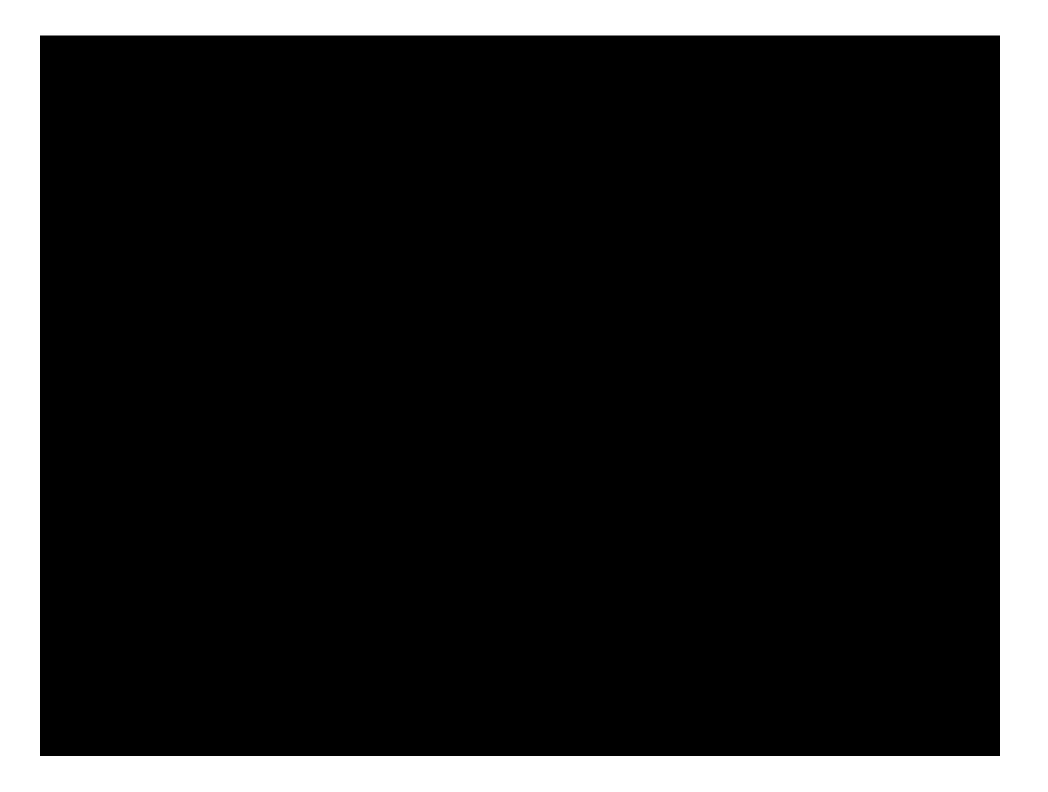


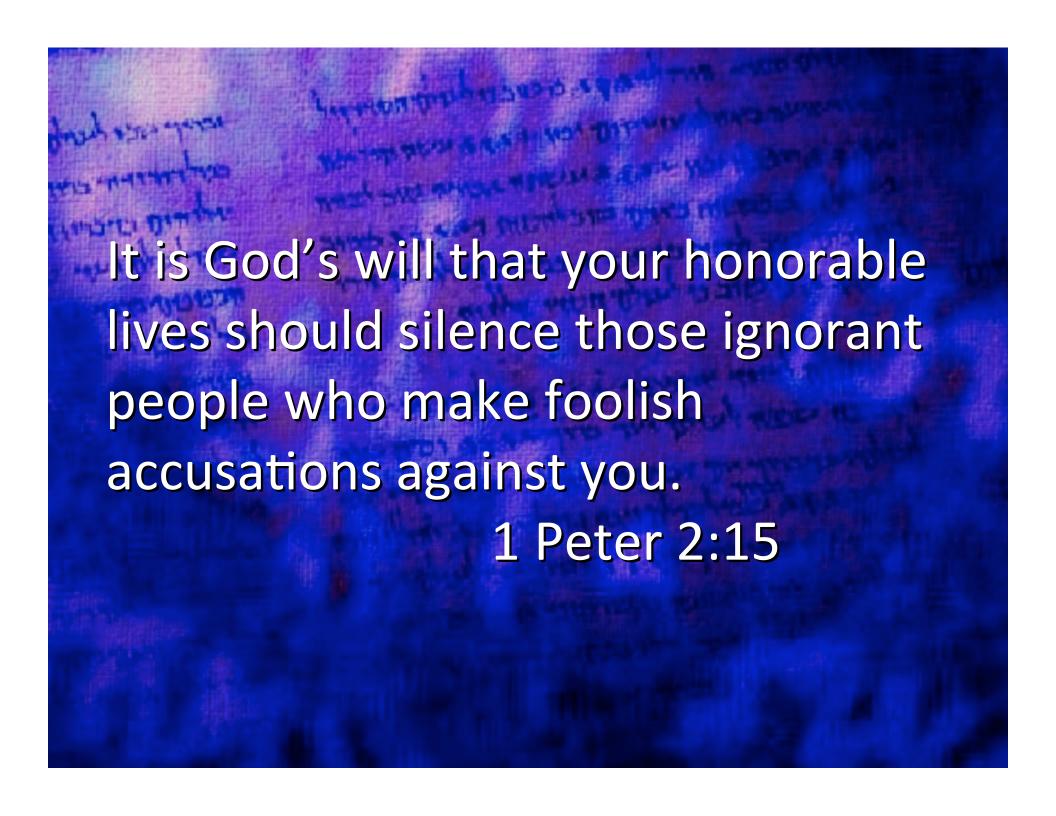
keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

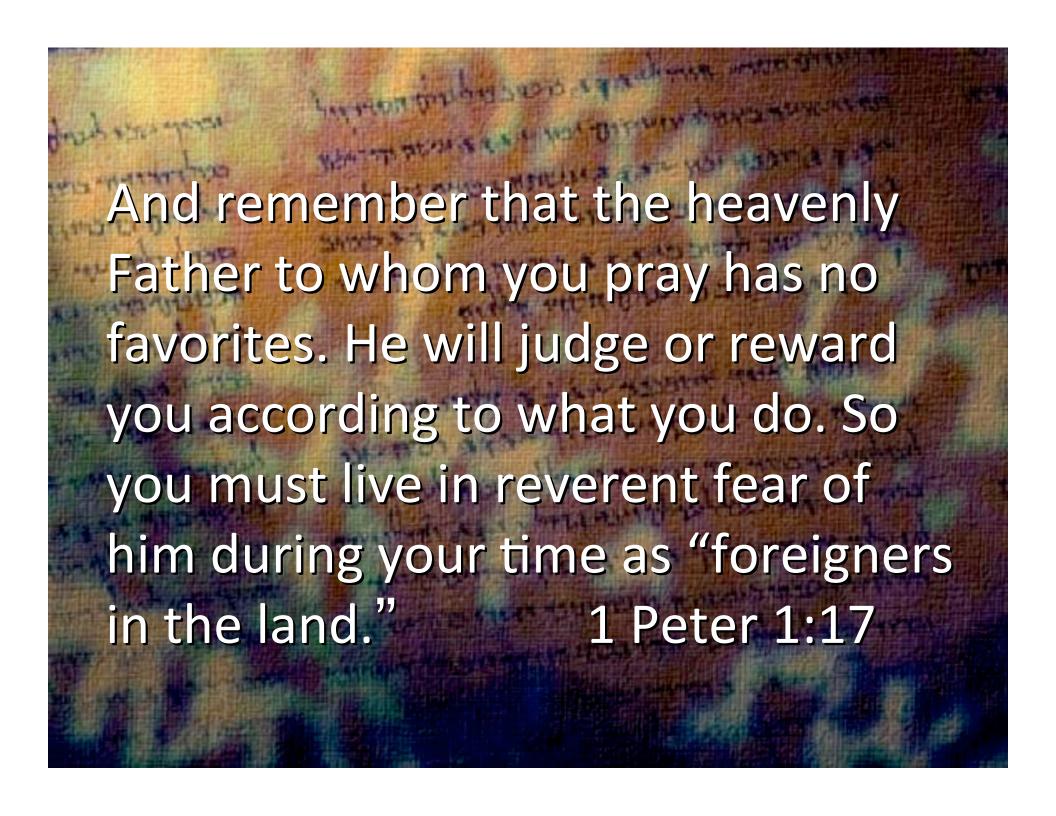
1 Peter 2:11b

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Galatians 5:19-21





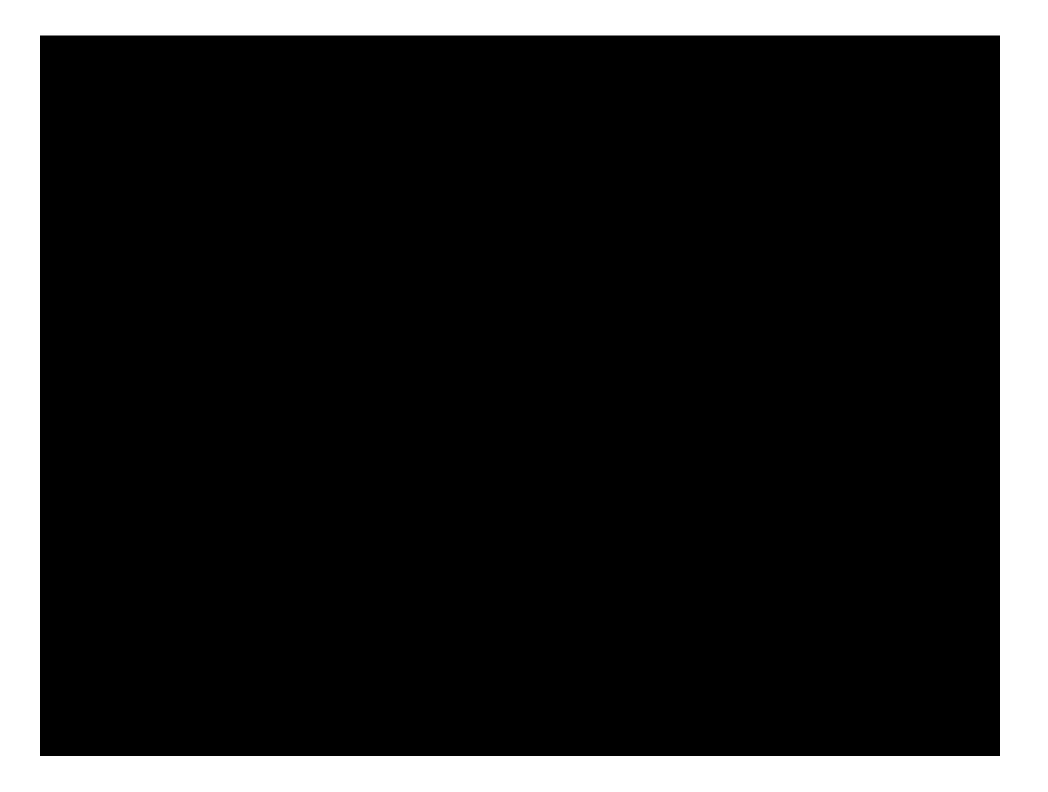




II. Respect authority for the Lord's sake

For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority—whether the king as head of state, **14** or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

1 Peter 2:13,14





3 marks of maturity

1. Show respect for everybody.

3 marks of maturity

2. Love Christians everywhere.

3 marks of maturity

3. Fear God and honor the government.

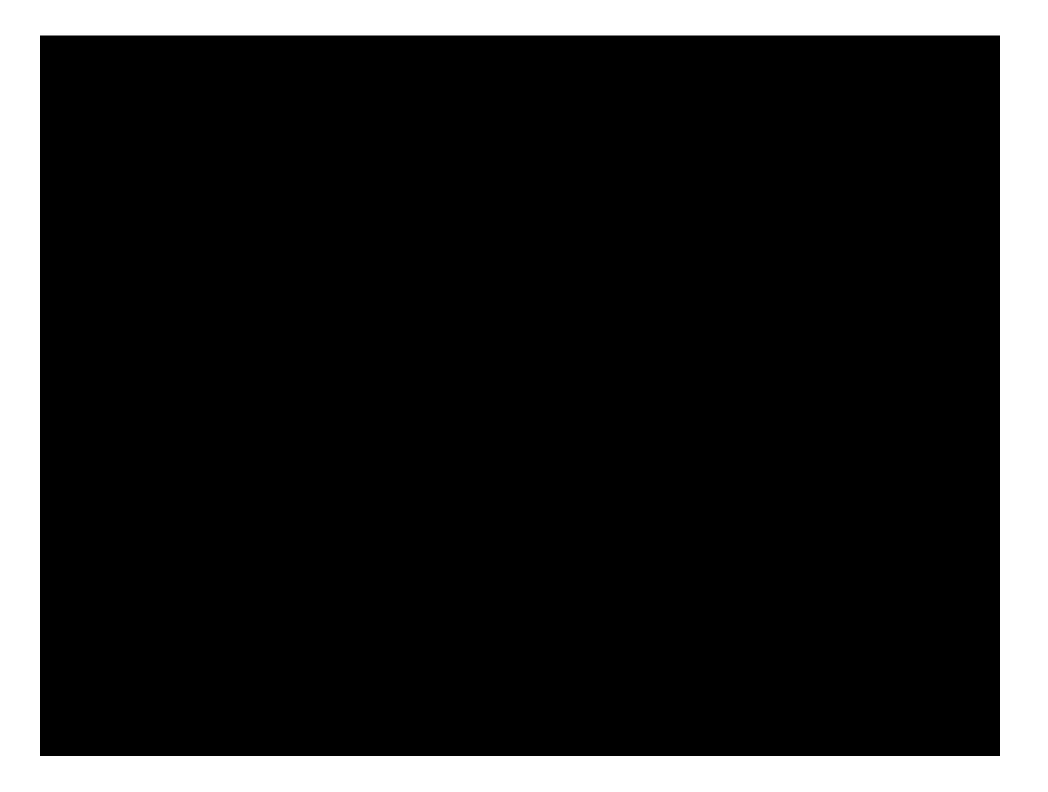
You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. 19 For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment. 20 Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. 1 Peter 2:18-20

III. Integrity in suffering

"For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. 23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges 1 Peter 2:22,23 fairly.



Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. 3 Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts. 2 Corinthians 3:2,3