

Dear friends, I urge you as aliens and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires that war against you. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that in a case where they speak against you as those who do evil, they may, by observing your good works, glorify God in a day of visitation.

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- Christians do not fit in with society at large. They are different.
 - A person can be a member of God's kingdom and the society at large, but where the two realms conflict, a person should choose God's kingdom.
 - A person can keep his Christian identity by obeying God's laws where the laws conflict with society's.
- Every human has fleshly desires, including Jesus.
 - Abstaining from the desires sets Christians apart.
 - Fleshly desires don't need to be limited to sexual only; they can be anything not godly.
 - The desires are powerful. They wage war against a Christian.
 - Abstaining carries a sense of deprivation and lack, and so the change in behavior doesn't come about passively like "Let go, let God."

Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that in a case where they speak against you as those who do evil, they may, by observing your good works, glorify God in a day of visitation.

- Conducting yourself honorably should be done no matter the circumstance.
 - Even if you are mistreated by the Gentiles.
 - Even if you are going against Gentile's laws to do the right thing.
- Christians should be so persistent in doing good that others take notice.
 - As foreigners, you will be noticed even more, and yes, everyone is paying attention to what you do in hopes of you messing up.
 - This does not mean every instance of doing good will be noticed, but the sense carries a longer term observance.
 - Eventually people who may have assumed you were really evil, at some point conclude that you genuinely are a "good" person since you insist on doing good even at a large detriment to yourself.
 - As a side note, Gentiles will not become Christians by noticing your actions, but they will begin to ask you questions which will then give you a chance to tell them Gospel to make them a Christian.