

DIFFERENT

SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

LIVE THE DIFFERENCE

1 Peter 1:1 – 2; 2:11 – 12

April 12, 2026

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MESSAGE NOTES

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. – 1 Peter 1:1 – 2 (NIV)

- **CHOSEN**

... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. – 1 Peter 1:2 (NIV)

- **TRANSFORMATION**

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. – 1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules. – Ezekiel 36:26 – 27 (ESV)

- **PLACED**

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. – 1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

... To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ... – 1 Peter 1:1 (NIV)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Peter reminds us that following Jesus means living differently, not by accident, but on purpose. In a world that constantly pulls us off course, anyone can drift, but it takes intention to swim. First, we are chosen: known by the Father, set apart by the Spirit, and secured in Christ. Our identity is rooted in what God has done for us. Second, we are being transformed. God is at work within us, reshaping our desires and empowering us to resist what pulls us away and follow His leading. Finally, we are placed right where we are for God's purpose. Our everyday lives are our greatest platform to reflect Jesus. Even when misunderstood, we're called to outlive it through consistent goodness and faithful presence.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: Have you ever been somewhere (like the ocean, on a hike, or even driving) where you didn't realize how far off course you had gotten until you stopped and looked around? What happened?
- What are some areas of life where it's easy to drift without noticing (spiritually, relationally, or personally)?
- Read 1 Peter 1:1–2. What stands out to you about being chosen by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, and secured by Jesus? How does that shape the way you see your identity?
- Peter says our desires can "*wage war against the soul.*" What do you think that battle looks like in real life, and where do you personally feel that tension? How does 1 Peter invite us to follow Christ in those moments?
- Read 1 Peter 2:12. What does it practically look like to "*live such good lives*" in a way that others can see God through you, especially in environments where faith is misunderstood?
- Read Matthew 5:14–16. How does Jesus' call to be the "*light of the world*" connect with Peter's message about living visibly different lives?
- Where is one specific place, person, or situation this week where you sense God calling you to stop drifting and start living with greater purpose? How can we pray for you in that?