

LIVING AS A SOJOURNER

I PETER

IN A STRANGE LAND

February 12, 2017

1 Peter: Love, Community, and the Goodness of God

Text: 1 Peter 2:1-3

Read together as a group the text we looked at Sunday. 1 Peter 2:1-3

This week and last week we talked about loving one another. We have been talking about community.

Take time and have everyone share what they think of when they try to define what a loving community looks like.

Peter is writing trying to help people learn how to love one another.

Community matters more than the individual.

What's your first response to this idea? What is the danger in putting ourselves before community?

Peter invites us to put some things away for the good of community...

Malice - to wish harm on another

Deceit - falsehoods with the intent to harm

Envy - jealousy, specifically about someone's good fortune

Slander - speech that intends to harm another's status or reputation

Peter uses a word here that leans into the idea of taking these off like clothes we would take off. **Take a brave step and verbalize which of these issues we seem to constantly put on in our daily life.**

In 1 Peter 2:2 we discover Peter calling us to change. Change is hard for all of us. **Why do you think change is difficult?**

When it comes to change we choose one of 2 paths...

1. We can try harder and focus on will power and rules.
2. We can fight our desires with a greater passion. (something we long for more than our current circumstances)

Which path do you choose most often?

In the end both are needed...do you think that's true? Why?

The way we experience lasting change is to acquire new longings and new passions. **How does God birth new passions in our lives?**

Read verse 3 together as a group...

What would it look like for you to "taste and see" that God is good?

Read **Psalm 34:4-8** over the group and have a time of prayer asking God to allow us to birth new passions in our lives that will in the end help us to love one another more deeply.