

Title: **Living in Tension: Our Identity, Struggle & Witness as Exiles**
Text: **1 Peter 2:11-12**
Date: **May 11, 2025**

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Big Idea

As beloved exiles in this world, we are called to be holy, despite hostility, as a witness to others for God's glory.

1. Our I_____: Live as B_____ Sojourners (v. 11a)

(cf. 1 Peter 1:1, 2:9-10; Genesis 14:13; Philippians 3:2)

- As Christians, we hold a "g_____ c_____" in this world – our citizenship is ultimately in the Kingdom of God.

2. Our I_____ Conflict: R_____ Desires (v. 11b)

(cf. 1 Peter 1:14, 2:1, 4:2-3, 5:8; Ephesians 6:12; Galatians 5:16-25; Mark 7:14-23)

- "Flesh" in this context does not refer to our physical bodies but rather our s_____ desires (e.g. "flesh," "the world," and Satan), contrary to God's will.
- Gnosticism: The physical (material) world is e_____ while the non-physical (immaterial) is g_____.

3. Our E_____ Conduct: W_____ to the World (v. 12)

(cf. 1 Peter 2:20, 3:11, 16, 4:19; Ephesians 2:10, Titus 2:7, 14; Matthew 5:11-12, 14-16; John 15:18-20)

- We should not be surprised -- in fact, we should e_____ - to face h_____ as Christians in this world.
- Rather than r_____ from this world, we are to e_____ the world.
- We are to live "h_____" (i.e. good, attractive, beautiful, appealing) lives that flow from the gospel -- so that the world may see and believe the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.



Reflection Questions

- Who are you? Where do you belong? In what ways do you need to be reminded of your identity as "beloved sojourners?" How might your life and attitude be different as you keep this in mind?
- What are some of the struggles you have when it comes to sin? Are you aware of any blindspots when it comes to sin? How are you fighting -- or perhaps have compromised -- in these areas?
- What is your reputation among non-Christians? In what ways does -- or perhaps doesn't -- your life point others to the gospel and who God is?
- How does the gospel and Jesus' life and example encourage and empower you to live in this world?

Parent Corner: How are you raising, teaching and modeling out to your children how to live with tension in this world? Do you tend to be too hovering or too hands off, too protective or too permissive when it comes to the world? What are some ways you can help prepare your child to live in this world and as a witness to this world?

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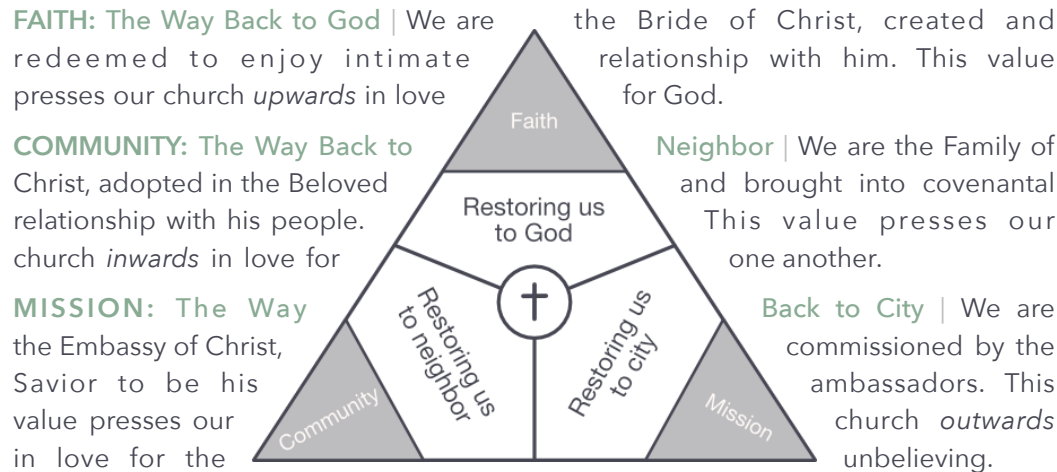


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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Campout - Register Today!

We are excited to announce that we'll be hosting an All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park over the weekend of June 20-22! We have a huge group campsite all to ourselves and lots of options in the park for having fun together. Whether you love to camp or you'd rather still sleep in your own bed, we have something for everyone. Because the park is only a 45 minute drive from south San Jose, people can feel free to come and go as it works with their schedule and preference.

- **Option #1: Day-Use:** For those not wanting to camp but still wanting to participate, the Day-Use option is best. You can come in for the day, enjoy activities, meals, etc., and then head home to your warm bed while the rest of us "rough" it :).
- **Option #2: Camp:** This option is for those who want the full camping experience. We have the site for Friday and Saturday nights. You can choose to camp for one or both of these depending upon your availability and desire.

Scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to sign up!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us
at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

Los Alamos Creek Trail Women's Walk - Saturday, May 17th!

Post-Missions Emphasis Week - What's Next?

Scan the QR code below for more info!

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