

# ALIENATED

THE GOSPEL IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD



## Scripture

*<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

*<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (1 Peter 2:11-17 ESV)*

## Outline

Big Idea: Our faith calls us to live honorably

Point 1. Abstain from passions of the flesh

Point 2. Submit to all authorities

Point 3. Use your freedom to serve others

# Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** What were some practical ways you demonstrated your faith to others through your daily actions this past week?

## **Point 1. Abstain from passions of the flesh**

- What are some specific "passions of the flesh" that we should avoid? Provide specific examples.
- How might our pursuit of worldly pleasures conflict with our Christian values?
- What role does self-control play in living a honorable life?

## **Point 2. Submit to all authorities**

- What does it mean to "submit to all authorities"? How does this principle align with our understanding of God's sovereignty?
- Are there instances where we might feel justified in questioning or resisting authority? If so, under what circumstances?
- How can we balance our duty to submit to authorities with our responsibility to speak truth to power?

## **Point 3. Use your freedom to serve others**

- What is the relationship between freedom and service? How can we use our freedom to make a positive impact on the world?
- How might our understanding of Christian love motivate us to serve others?

## **Application Questions:**

- What challenges might we face in living out these principles?
- How can we support and encourage one another in living honorably?
- What are some practical ways we can serve our communities and those in need?

# Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.