

Living as Exiles Pt. 1  
1 Peter 2:13-3:1

ETS: Peter pleaded with the Christians to exhibit excellent behavior thus presenting a powerful testimony.

ESS: Our behavior directly affects our testimony among people and our relationship with God.

OSS: I want people to change any actions that may hinder their testimony to the lost around them.

PQ: How do those outside the church rate your behavior?

UW: Reasons

**ME**

Have you ever been in a foreign land?

- Guatemala Trip
  - Did not know the language
  - Looked different. For the first time, I knew a little of what it must feel like to be a “*minority*.”
    - People called us Gringos!
    - People looked at because we were different
- The way we dressed was different
- Our language was different
  - Our looks were different
  - Our customs were different

**WE**

We are “**exiles and Strangers**” in this world because we are **different!**

- We have a different belief system than our culture!
  - We believe that **God exists**.
    - We believe that He is an all-powerful, all-knowing being who created this world!
  - We believe that **Jesus Christ** is **His only Son** who came to this earth by being born of the **Virgin Mary**.
    - Who lived a **sinless**, perfect life.
    - Who **died** on the **cross** to satisfy God’s holiness.
    - Who **rose bodily** from the dead the third day.
    - Who ascended to **heaven**.
    - Who **intercedes** in heaven for you and me.
    - Who is **coming** again!
  - We believe that **humanity** is **sinful**.
    - We **don’t believe** that the problems in this world are simply the result of a **lack of education**.
    - We **don’t believe** that the problems in this world are the **result of environment**.

- We **don't believe** that the problems in this world are **the result of economic imbalance.**
- We **don't believe** that the problems in this world are **the result of governments.**
- We believe that all the **problems** that we endure ultimately goes back to the fact that we are **sinners** living in a **fallen, cursed world** *as a result of our decision to sin against God.*

A few years ago, the Pastoral team of **Trinity Church** in Columbus, Ohio went on a retreat to Indianapolis for the NCAA "**March Madness**" basketball playoffs.

- Across from them in the arena a man held up a sign which had the words "**John 3:16**" written on it.
- Seated directly behind the pastoral team were **two well-dressed couples** who began to **debate** what the "**John 3:16**" sign meant.
  - One thought it was an **advertisement** for a **new restaurant** in town.
  - Another thought it was a signal to **someone to meet** at the **john** on the **third floor, stall 16!**

**Reality: The MAJORITY in America are ignorant about the Bible**

**Reality: The MAJORITY often pressures the MINORITY to conform.**

Tony Evan's Book "Let's Get to Know Each Other": What White and Black Christians Need to Know About Each Other"

**Reality: The MAJORITY often pressures the MINORITY to conform.**

- The **believers** who were "**Exiles and strangers**" were under pressure to conform
  - We will be **increasingly under pressure to conform** to a **world system** that **rejects God** or relegates to the "**Man upstairs.**"

How do we ("**Exiles and strangers**") live out the Christian life as a minority?

- How do we keep from giving into the pressure from the secular majority?

To keep **Control** over the minorities,

- The **majority highlights** any **failures** of the minorities
- The **majority highlights** the **differences** of the minorities

The **secular media** loves to highlight stories of a prominent believer (minority) who fails to live out his/her professed beliefs.

How do we ("**Exiles and strangers**") live out the Christian life?

- How do we keep from giving into the pressure from the secular majority?

**GOD**

**1 Peter 2:11-25** "Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to..."

- Command #1: abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.
- Command #2: Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.
- Command #3: 13 Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the emperor as the supreme authority 14 or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. 15 For it is God’s will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good.
- Command #4: 16 Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God’s slaves.
- Command #5: 17 Honor everyone.
- Command #6: Love the brothers and sisters.
- Command #7: Fear God.
- Command #8: Honor the emperor.
- Command #9: 18 Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel. 19 For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

**1 Peter 3:1** Command #10: “In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands...

- For many—even in the church—that statement is a “Bridge too far!”

**10 commandments** for the MINORITIES (“Exiles and strangers”) to live out in front of the MAJORITY!

How do we (“Exiles and strangers”) live out the Christian life?

- How do we keep from giving into the pressure from the secular majority?

Do you ever think that the Christian life is just about “Do this, don’t do that”?

Until a few years ago, that is how I conceived of the Christian life!

- “Do this for God” and “Don’t do this because of God”

Mentality of many Christians (including myself): “I’ve got to do great things for God” or “I’ve got to make God happy.”

To “rub salt in the wound” Peter then states: **1 Peter 2:21-25** “For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth; 23 when he was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you

have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Do you all feel the **tension**?

- NOT give into the MAJORITY, but HOW
- To follow Christ’s example

How in the world is it possible to live the Christian life—especially in a **hostile world**?

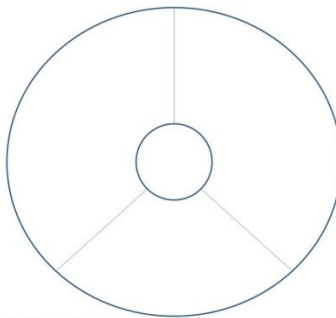
- How do we “**submit to human authorities**” when we may not like their policies or personalities?
- How do we “**conduct ourselves honorably**” among people who have a disdain for God and the morality set forth by Him?
- How is a “**household slave**” to submit to his/her master?
- How do we “**abstain from fleshly desires**” in a world where “**fleshly desires**” are constantly before us?
- How do I “**submit to my husband**” when he is not in alignment with my beliefs?

Those are legitimate questions and we need legitimate answers!

- **Non-legitimate answer:** Just try harder!

**Trichotomy vs. Dicotomy**

- **Trichotomy:** Humans have three parts: Body, soul and spirit
- **Dicotomy:** Human have two parts: Body and soul/spirit



Charles Solomon "The Handbook to Happiness"

**Me: Trichotomist**

- Why: God likes threes
- Why: Scripture indicates they are separate in **Romans 8:16**, **1 Thessalonians 5:23**; and **Hebrews 4:12**.

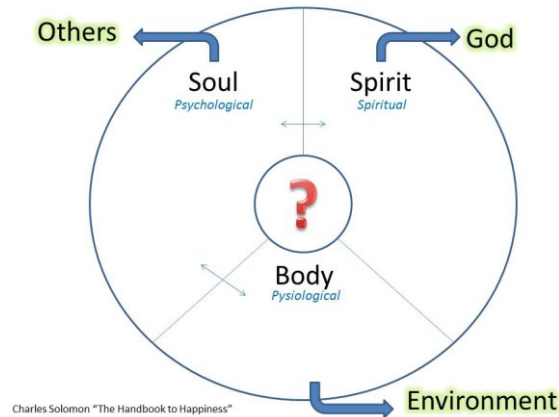
**Trichotomist:** (Charles R. Solomon, “Handbook to Happiness” diagrams)

The body *interacts* with our soul

- There are issues going on in our soul, it is going to be reflected by the body

The soul *interacts* with our spirit

- Intuition/consciousness/communion affects your mind, emotions and will



**1 Peter 2:11** “Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.

Question: What is at the “Center”?

What is driving how we **relate** the **world**? (Body)

- What is the **driving us** to use our bodies to carry out those “sinful desires”?
- What is driving our **personality**? (Soul)
- What is driving our **psyche**? (Soul)
  - What is driving us to give into sinful emotions such as **unrighteous anger**?
  - What is driving us to **choose** to lust?
  - What is driving us to dwell on wicked thoughts of revenge, greed, etc.?
- What is affecting our relationship with God? (Spirit)
- What is cutting off or searing our consciousness regarding sin? (Spirit)

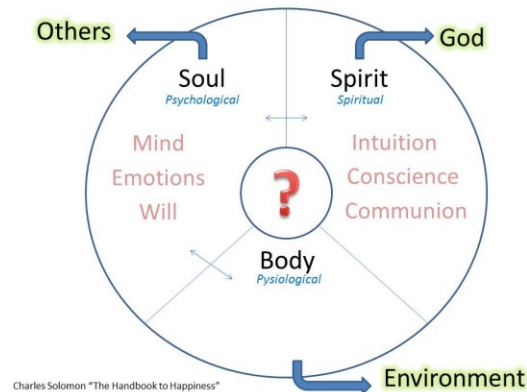
Question: What is at the “Center”?

**Prior to salvation**, what is at the center is what is driving every aspect of our body, soul and spirit: **SELF**

- We are **not really conscious** of a tension with SELF because SELF is just who we are.
  - **1 Peter 1:14** “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance.”
    - Prior to Christ, a person is “**Ignorant**” about SELF

Why is a non-believer “**Ignorant**” about SELF because as Peter stated in **1 Peter 1:18** “you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors....”

- We are born in “**ignorance**”
  - Paul stated that the “**empty way of life inherited from your ancestors....**” goes all the way back to **Adam** (1 Cor. 15:22; Romans 5:12-14)



As a result of Adam and Eve’s rebellion against God, all humans are born with a sinful nature!

- We are all born **“Dead in our trespasses and sin.”**

There is no realization of SELF for the sinner UNTIL confronted with the Gospel

- **Until** a person is confronted with the **Gospel**--*We are all living in rebellion against God*—there is **no sense of living in rebellion** against God but rather just a sense of **“This is how I am and that justifies what I do.”**
- **WHEN** a person is confronted with the **Gospel**, the Holy Spirit reveals to them that they are living in rebellion against God!

WHERE is the convicting happening? The person’s **soul!**

- **Mind:** The Holy Spirit is bringing to the person’s mind their **sinful actions**
- **Emotions:** The Holy Spirit is bringing to the person’s **heart a tension** regarding the **separation** between them and God due to their rebellion
- **Will:** The Holy Spirit is tugging at them to **choose to respond** by **humbling** themselves before God.

WHERE is the convicting happening? The person’s **spirit!**

- **Conscience:** The Holy Spirit is bringing to the person’s mind conscience their need to repent and turn from sin and turn to Christ
- **Communion:** The Holy Spirit is revealing the persons non-communion with God as a result of his/her rebellion.
- **Intuition:** The Holy Spirit is showing the unbeliever that Christ is the answer.

The unbeliever has two choices at this point:

- **CHOICE #1:** Reject the Holy Spirit’s conviction
  - Each time this happens the unbeliever’s heart grows harder and colder.
    - Eventually, his/her heart can become so cold and callous that he/she no longer feels the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- **CHOICE #2:** Humility and Repentance
  - Turn from sin and self and trust Christ alone for salvation

WHEN/IF a person, turns from sin and self and trust Christ alone for salvation suddenly he/she becomes **aware** of something they were not aware of before: **SELF!**

- **Aware** of SELF because **Christ** is now in **communion** with his/her spirit!
  - **SELF** (“**the flesh**”) has ALWAYS been there, but the unbeliever is not *aware of SELF because there is not counter to self! BUT when a person becomes a believer, SELF is exposed!*
    - The believer realizes a **sinful nature** resides in him/her believer!

Furthermore, WHEN a person, turns from sin and self and trust Christ alone for salvation his/her **citizenship** is **changed** from this earth to heaven—he/she now becomes an “**exile.**”

- As long as he/she lives, he/she is an exile—living in a world that is not home!

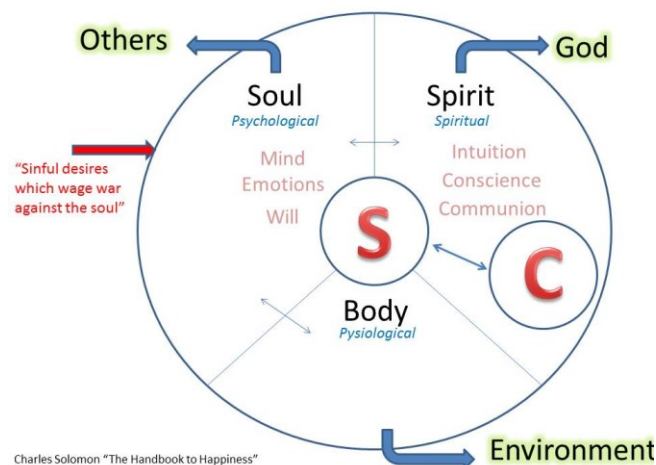
Why is this world **NOT home** for a believer?

- Satan is the “**god**” of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
  - The **world** has **bought into** the **lies** of Satan

The MAJORITY buys into lies such as....

- Greed is good
- Sex is okay in any context
  - Marriage is antiquated)
  - It doesn't matter who you love
- You find your value in what you do
- If it feels good, do it.
- Climb the corporate ladder
- Watch out for number one

Believers, the “**exiles**”, hear these lies constantly in the **media, social media, print, academia, etc.**



**Satan** and his demonic hordes **DO NOT** give up when a person becomes a believer—in fact, the **attack increases!**

- Goal for Satan/demonic hordes is to *neutralize* the believer (i.e., invalidate any testimony)

Satan, knows that these lies still appeal to SELF

- “*Exiles*” still have SELF at the center and the *lies of Satan still appeal to the believer!*

**BUT**, the believer now has **Christ** in his/her **heart** and so there is a **battle!**

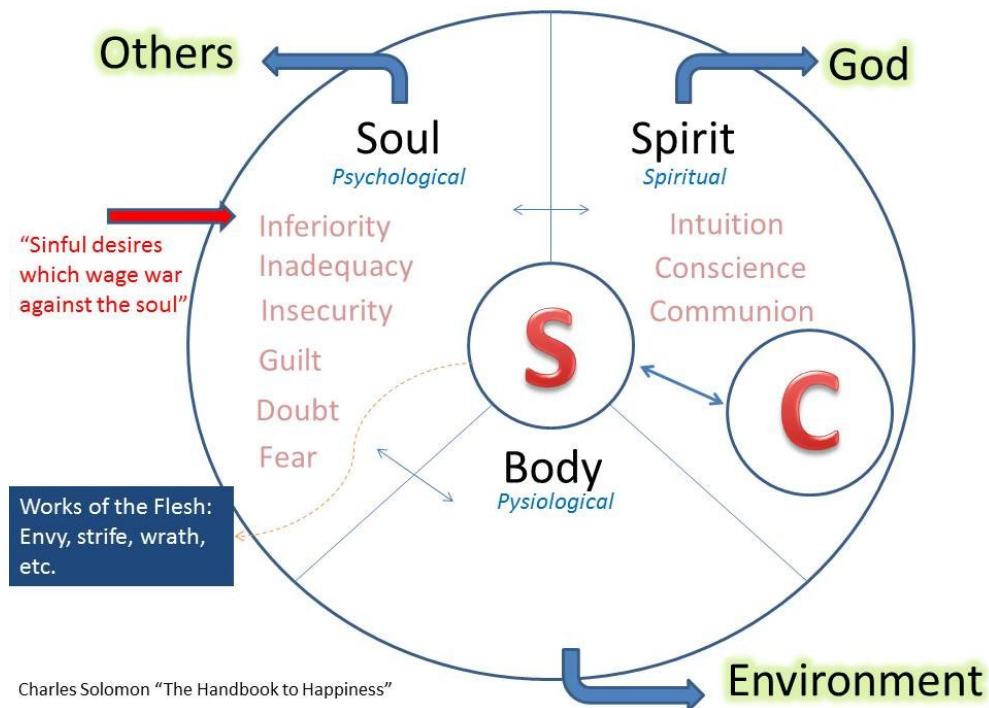
- Believer’s struggle: “Do I give into the **sinful desires** which wage war against my soul?”
  - The **world**, which is under the sway of Satan, constantly yells out “**YES!**”

Notice that Peter says: **1 Peter 2:11** “Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.

**WHERE** does Satan aim his lies? At the “**soul**”

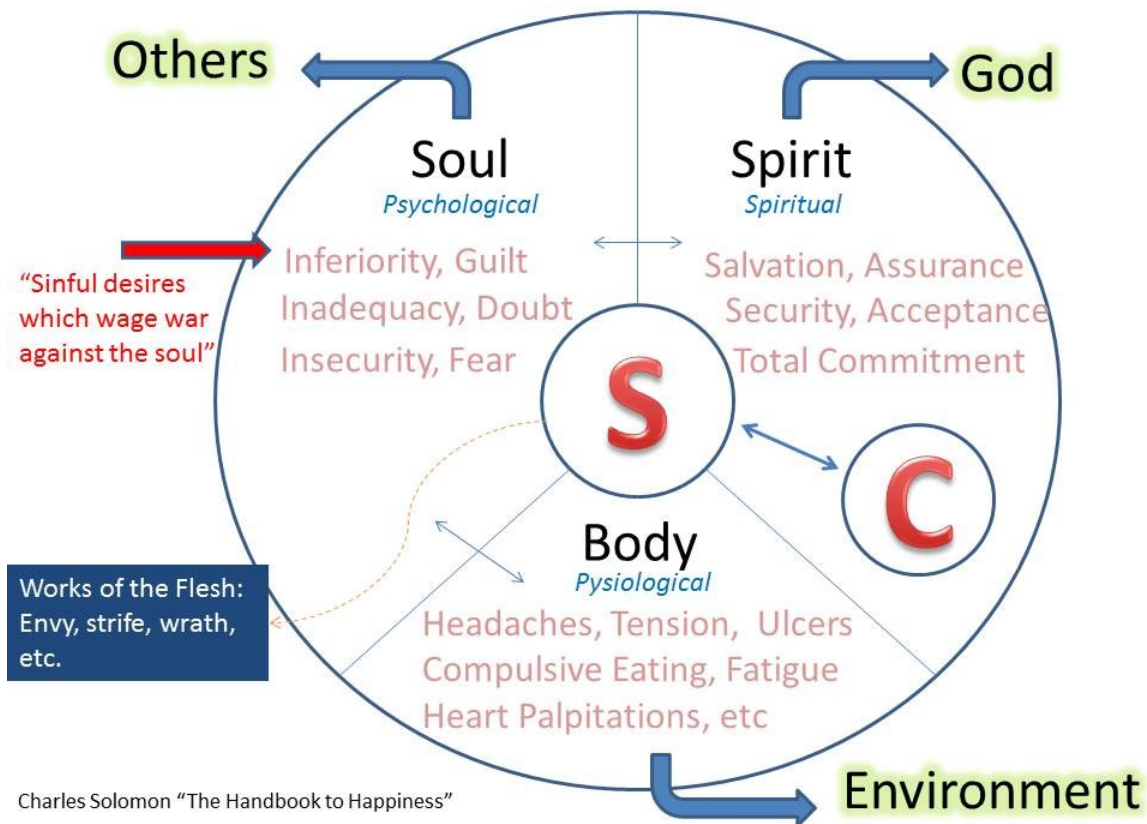
- Aimed at the **Mind**
  - If Satan can get the “**exiles**” to *buy into* the lies, then he can neutralize the believer!
- Aimed at the **Emotions**
  - The lies of Satan appeal to the emotions—“If it feels good, do it” or “If you love someone why does it matter?”
    - Honestly, most people nowadays make decisions based solely on emotion!
- Aimed at the **Will**
  - The goal for Satan is to get the “**Exile**” to acts in a way that is contrary God.
    - To destroy his/her testimony





Satan knows that if he can get the **SELF** of the "Exile" to buy into his lies, then the "Exile" the end result will be a **neutralized** believer!

- The neutralized believer will have feelings of:
  - **Inferiority** in his/her soul
  - **Inadequacy** in his/her soul
  - **Insecurity** in his/her soul
  - **Guilt** in his/her soul
  - **Worry** in his/her soul
  - **Doubt** in his/her soul
- The neutralized believer will **not act** (Will) in
  - **Confidence** in his/her faith
  - **Boldness** in expressing his/her faith



Satan knows that if he can get the **SELF** of the “Exile” to buy into his lies, then the “Exile” the end result will be a **WAR** believer in his/her **SPIRIT**!

- Struggle with **Assurance** of salvation
- Struggle with **Security** of his/her destiny
- Struggle with **Acceptance** of who they are in Christ
- Struggle with **Total Commitment** to Christ

The **RESULT** of buying into Satan’s lies is a life in which the **OPPOSITE** of the **Fruit of the Spirit**!

- The neutralized believer is often at **odds** with other believers!
- The neutralized believer is often at **envious** of others
- The neutralized believer is **not** at **peace** with himself or God!
- The neutralized believer is **filled** with **anxiety**
- The neutralized believer is **impatient** with others

The neutralized believer is characterized by **FRUSTRATION**

- **Frustration** with **work**
- Frustration with **family**
- Frustration with **other believers**
- Frustration with **God**!

**1 Peter 2:11** “Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.

Because of this WAR in the believer’s SPIRIT, the believer often struggles with **physical results** in the BODY.

- **Tension**
- **Ulcers**
- **Nervous stomach**
- **Heart palpitations**
- **Eating disorders**
- **Fatigue**
- **Insomnia**

**WHY** because the **believer** is **allowing SELF** to give into the “**sinful desires of the flesh**” while at the same time knowing he/she is acting in rebellion against his/her Savior!

We are all born with **SELF** at the **center**

- **SELF** (*the flesh*) is the **driving force** behind our body, soul and spirit

**Self is selfish!**

- Self wants to be #1
- Self doesn’t want to follow God
- Self doesn’t seek after God

Salvation comes when a person responds to the **conviction** of the **Holy Spirit**

- At this point, a person is “**receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**” (1 Peter 1:9)
  - At this point, CHRIST enters into your SPIRIT

Does that mean you are now free from giving into the “Sinful desires which wage war against your soul”? NO!

- IF that was the case, Peter would be “**Urging**” us to “**Abstain from the sinful desires which wage war against your soul!**”

Peter: “**Sinful desires wage war against your soul**”

- **Sinful desires wage war against your mind**
  - Goal: to get you to think that you are just an **addict!**
  - Goal: to get you think “**That’s just the way I was born**”
  - Goal: to get you to make **excuses** for sinful behavior
- **Sinful desires wage war against your emotions**
  - Goal: to get you to live depressed
  - Goal: to get you to live in fear
  - Goal: to get you to live in anxiety
  - Goal: to get you to live in perpetual state of anger
- **Sinful desires wage war against your will**

- Goal: to get you to carry out sinful actions like immorality
- Goal: to get you to carry out sinful actions like stealing, explosive anger, etc.
- Goal: to get you to carry out actions that will hurt you and others.

These “sinful desires” target the core of our being: our soul!

- Satan and his demons tempt you to sin by appealing to the very core of your being

**1 Peter 2:11** “Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.”

- Peter “Urges” believers to “abstain from sinful desires”

Question: Is living the Christian life simply a matter of willpower?

- Is living the Christian life simply a matter of “abstaining for sinful desires”?
  - When/If we give into “Sinful desires” is it because we simply lacked the will power?

PQ: Are you struggling to live as an “exile”?