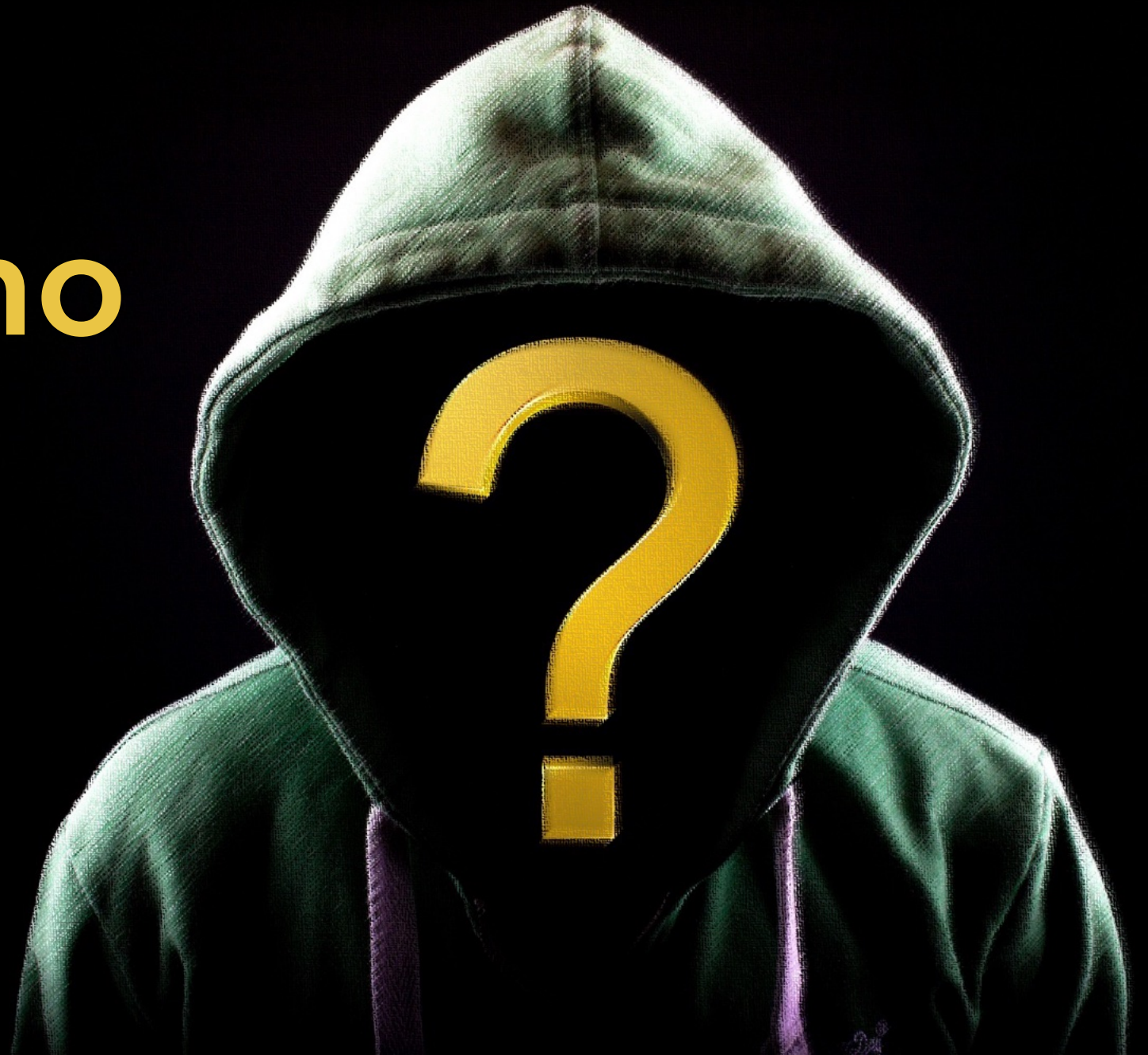


# Do You Know Who You Are?

A Survey of First Peter



# Overview

- The original recipients of First Peter had become (figuratively and perhaps literally) sojourners and exiles in the world (1 Pet 2:11; cf. 1:1, 17).
- Peter encourages his readers (and us) to stand firm in the grace of God by remembering who they are in Christ—members of the household of God (5:12).
- First Peter will become more relevant to us as the world becomes more antagonistic to us.



# Overview

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We live in strange times. Or the times we live in make strangers out of folks like me. I'm not sure which. (S. D. Gaede)

- First Peter will become more relevant to us as the world becomes more antagonistic to us.



# Household of God

- First Peter repeatedly uses “house(hold)” language to show that at their new birth God adopts Christians into his family (1 Pet 1:3-5, 22-25; cf. 2:4-10).
- Christians receive a new identity in Christ and must live accordingly (2:18-3:7; cf. 2:12; 4:3; Exod 4:22).
- As members of the house of God, we will imitate our Father, proclaim his greatness, and entrust ourselves to him (1 Pet 1:14-16; 2:9-10; 4:12-19; cf. 1:22-23).



# Exiles in the World

- Our adoption into the household of God results in our alienation from the world (1 Pet 1:1, 17; 2:11).



They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all others; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all men and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death and restored to life. They are poor yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonored, and yet in their very dishonor are glorified. . . .

They are evil spoken of, and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honor; they do good yet are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners, and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred.  
(Mathetes, *Diogn.* 5.5)

# Exiles in the World

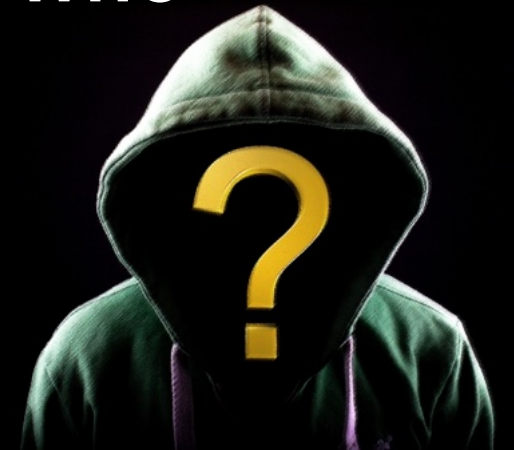
- Our adoption into the household of God results in our alienation from the world (1 Pet 1:1, 17; 2:11).
- Peter frequently alludes to Ps 34, the psalm that David wrote while in "exile," to provide his readers with an example to follow (1 Pet 1:3, 17; 2:3, 6; 3:10-12).
- Non-Christians mocked, maimed, and murdered Christians to (try to) shame them into apostasy (1 Pet 1:6-7; 3:14-17; 4:3-4, 12-19; cf. 2:12, 15; 5:8-11).





# Modern Parallels

- Satan is active in the world today as he was during the time of Peter (1 Pet 5:8; 2 Cor 2:11).
- Just as the Greco-Roman world hated the exclusivity and morality of Christianity, so our world today demands conformity (e.g., LGBTQ+).
- Rather than despair, we ought to remember who we are (identity), live as the people of God (conduct), and get ready for persecution/opportunities (result).



Faith of our fathers, living still, In spite of dungeon, fire and sword— Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy Whene'er we hear that glorious word! Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death. // Faith of our fathers, we will strive To win all nations unto thee; And through the truth that comes from God, We all shall then be truly free. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death. // Our fathers, chained in prisons dark, Were still in heart and conscience free; How sweet would be their children's fate, If they, like them, could die for thee. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death. // Faith of our fathers, we will love Both friend and foe in all our strife, And preach thee, too, as love knows how, By kindly words and virtuous life. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

**"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Pet 5:10-11 NASB).**

**Do You  
Know Who  
You Are?**

