

## Conclusion

What are the fleshly lusts from which we are to abstain?

- Anything God prohibits.
- Any morally neutral thing which we misuse or overuse.

What are the characteristics of excellent behavior we are to maintain?

- All that God commands.
- Using morally neutral things to advance the gospel and build up God's people.

Remember that your good works are going to prick the conscience of unbelievers and condemn their own actions as sinful.

Because of this, in the effort to justify themselves and ease their own guilt, they will slander us as evildoers. We live in a day when evil is called good and good is called evil.

John 15:18-21

Matthew 5:10-12

Luke 21:10-13

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S EXCELLENCE IN THE WORLD

1 Peter 2:11-12

### Introduction

#### I. The "Who" of the Exhortation:

- "Beloved" –
- "Aliens" –  
Acts 7:6, 29
- "Strangers" –  
Hebrews 11:13

#### II. The "What" of the Exhortation:

- "Abstain"  
Acts 15:28-29  
1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

- “Fleshly Lusts”

Galatians 5:16-21, 24

James 1:14-15

1 John 2:15-17

- “Which wage war against the soul”

Matthew 10:39; Romans 13:1

Romans 7:21-25

James 4:1

- “Keep your behavior excellent”

- “Good deeds”

### III. The “Where” of the Exhortation:

- “Among the Gentiles” The word is literally “nations.”

- It could be translated “pagans.”

1 Thessalonians 4:5

1 Corinthians 12:2

### IV. The “When” of the Exhortation:

- We must consistently be *abstaining* from lusts and *maintaining* good behavior, because...
- Our lusts are constantly *warring* against us.
- The unbelievers among whom we live are *observing* our good works, but...
- These unbelievers are not passive observers of our good works: they are *slandering* us as evildoers!

### V. The “Why” of the Exhortation:

The purpose for all things is the glory of God.

Luke 19:44

Matthew 5:16