

STRANGER^{in a} STRANGE LAND

sermon notes | october 16, 2011

Better Together Discussion Guide

Peter calls Christians exiles. He names us strangers, immigrants. So he imagines the Church to be a Chinatown or a Little Italy: we are a gathering of foreigners, citizens of God's Kingdom, in the middle of suburban American culture. He reminds us that to follow Jesus, we all need each other, that we must practice submitting to each other, pursuing unity and humility, kindness and compassion. We must follow Jesus' example and embrace the pain submitting to other people can often cause. But it's worth it! Following the way of the Cross, the way of Jesus is tough in this culture, and we weren't meant to do it alone!

Scripture for Further Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12; 1 Corinthians 13, Colossians 3:12-17; James 5:16

Questions for Discussion

1. Who are your closest friends? How open are you with them?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-9 and 4:2-11. Which of these virtues do you especially embody? Which do you struggle with?
3. Why is it so hard to be vulnerable with other people?
4. Why is it so important to be open and honest with other people, especially those close to you?
5. What can you do this week to step towards the kind of community Peter describes?