

Small Group Interaction Questions:

**MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits**  
**“Resident Aliens”**  
**I Peter 1:1-2**  
**BBC 9/21/08**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to what may be a new chapter in your spiritual life. It may be new because it is simply new information. However, I suspect it will feel new because it is a new diet, an uncomfortable adjustment, or even a disturbing disruption of some comfortable assumptions. The apostle Peter is our coach, and his first letter is a challenge to the living church. Just three pages in my Bible, but a world of eye-opening implications! I hope you will listen to the messages on our website, but more importantly, I'm trusting you will go deeper in these discussions with others. Hearing is good. Applying is essential. God bless you as you delve into the meaning of these scriptures.

The very first lesson from Peter is about our status in the world. Brace yourself, because he is telling us we don't belong. We who are followers of Jesus Christ, Christians, are “strangers” in this world. When the predominant motive of many is to fit in, Peter is saying there is something we need to settle about our identity at the outset. We are pilgrims, aliens, strangers: non-natives to any culture on earth. How should we then live?

Pastor Roger

- 1) Read **I Peter 1:1-2**. Peter is writing to a distant and diverse group of churches, probably house-churches. They are “Strangers in the world, scattered. . .”

What have you experienced in a foreign culture when you met someone from “home?” What do you notice about first-generation resident aliens who live around us? What kind of relationships do they have with each other?

- 2) Review **I Peter 1:1/ 1:17/ 2:11-12/ Heb. 11:13**. What makes a Christ-follower “strange?”

Are there places in your life where you understand what it is like to be a “stranger” here on earth? Has a part of you been detached or displaced, permanently unsatisfied in this life? This can happen through losses, disappointments, failures, or choices. How has this drawn you to faith and hope in God (I Peter 1:21)?

- 3) Read **Acts 1:4-11**. Jesus himself describes the time in history which the church will occupy. We live in the interim. We live between the “already” and the “not yet.”

How does a disciple keep himself/herself from simply becoming lazy, bored with waiting for the Lord's return, and absorbed in daily routine?

How does a disciple keep from being “so heavenly minded” and detached that he/she is of no earthly good?

- 4) Pray for one another, especially for those unresolved longings, disappointed hopes, and broken promises that are part of this world. God knows!