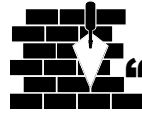## Abraham - "Am I Living As An Alien Or A Tourist?"

# "Building Blocks"

1. **(Q2-1Pet, p19)** The word translated "stay" (NAS), "exile" (ESV), "live your lives as strangers" (NIV), is the same word family used in Hebrews 11:9,13 (*paroikia*). The force of this word is that the person is *not* "home" in any sense in this life. We are, in truth, in a type of "exile" away from our true homeland.

2. **(Q4, p20)** The act of "declaring," "confessing," "admitting," or "acknowledging" galvanizes in my heart the truth of these words. By actually *telling people* that I am an "alien," "stranger," "pilgrim," "sojourner," or "refugee" reinforces *to me* that as my identity. *This* is really "who" I am!

   Speaking this to others also creates an accountability to the words themselves. *Others* will hold me to them. Knowing that is a healthy motivation for me to live in a manner consistent with my profession.

3. **(Q5)** While working through these verses, it is very insightful to distinguish between John 15 and 17. In chapter 15, Jesus is teaching. In chapter 17, however, he is *praying.* Chaper 17 contains things Jesus prayed for all believers, not just the original disciples (cf. Jn 17:9).

4. **(Q6)** Paul's admonition to Timothy has a very special application to this discussion. You will find is useful for some excellent discussion questions (2 Tim 2:2-7). Look at the special connection between the metaphors Paul uses with Timothy and the identity of a "resident-stranger."

5. **(Q6-Rom12:2)** Paul presents the idea of "conformity" to the world as an eventuality for the mind that is *not* being transformed. Even though I am "not of the world" any longer, it can still shape me life in a very profound fashion.

6. **(Q6-Phil3:20)** The Greek noun translated "citizenship" in 3:20 *(politeuma)* is the same word as the Greek verb *(politeumai)* translated, "conduct yourselves" (NAS) or "let your manner of life be…" (ESV) in 1:27. Paul is essentially charging the Philippians to live in a way that is consistent with where they are "from."

# "Stumbling Stones"

1. **(Q1)** It would be very easy to miss the intended point of this question. The last phrase of the question is vital: *"…write out what these descriptions mean in practical terms."* Make sure that the members of your group actually talk about what this would *look like* in the real world of social relationships, spending habits, possessions, etc.

2. **(Q5)** Be careful to not only focus on what can happen *to* "resident-strangers," in these verses, but also what is true *of them* (e.g. they are no longer "of the world," they know the one who sent Jesus, etc.). REMEMBER: This chapter is primarily about the *identity* of the believer, not the attitude of "the world" towards them.

3.  **(Q5-Jn 17:18)** It is vital to understand Jesus' "mission" as clearly and thoroughly as possible because it is mine too! There is, in a very real sense, such a thing as "the alien mission." God has much, much more in store for me as an "alien" than simply *"to obstain from the passions that war against my soul"* (1 Pet 2:11).

4.  **(Q6-2Cor5:20)** lThis is much bigger than the notion of a "goodwill ambassador." I *must* think in terms of a *foreign* ambassador. It's not just that I'm *from* "someplace else." It's also that I *represent* that "someplace," and bear a message from it's King!

# ? "Going Deeper"

1.  **(Q5)** After doing all the verses associated with this question, explain in your own words why *both parts* of the phrase, "resident-strangers" are very important to properly understanding this concept.

2.  **(Q5-Jn17:18)** What insights do Luke 4:16-19 and Mark 10:45 add to Jesus' statement in this verse?

3.  **(Q5-Jn 17:23)** How is this part of Jesus' prayer (for unity) dependent upon believers having the same sense of identity (i.e. "resident-strangers") and mission ("I have sent them into the world…")?

4.  **(Q6-Phil3:20)** If you had dual citizenship, and only one was permanent, what difference would this make on how you lived your life? What difference would it make on what you did with your time and resources? What would you *not* do?