

STRANGERS

HOW TO LIVE

FAR FROM

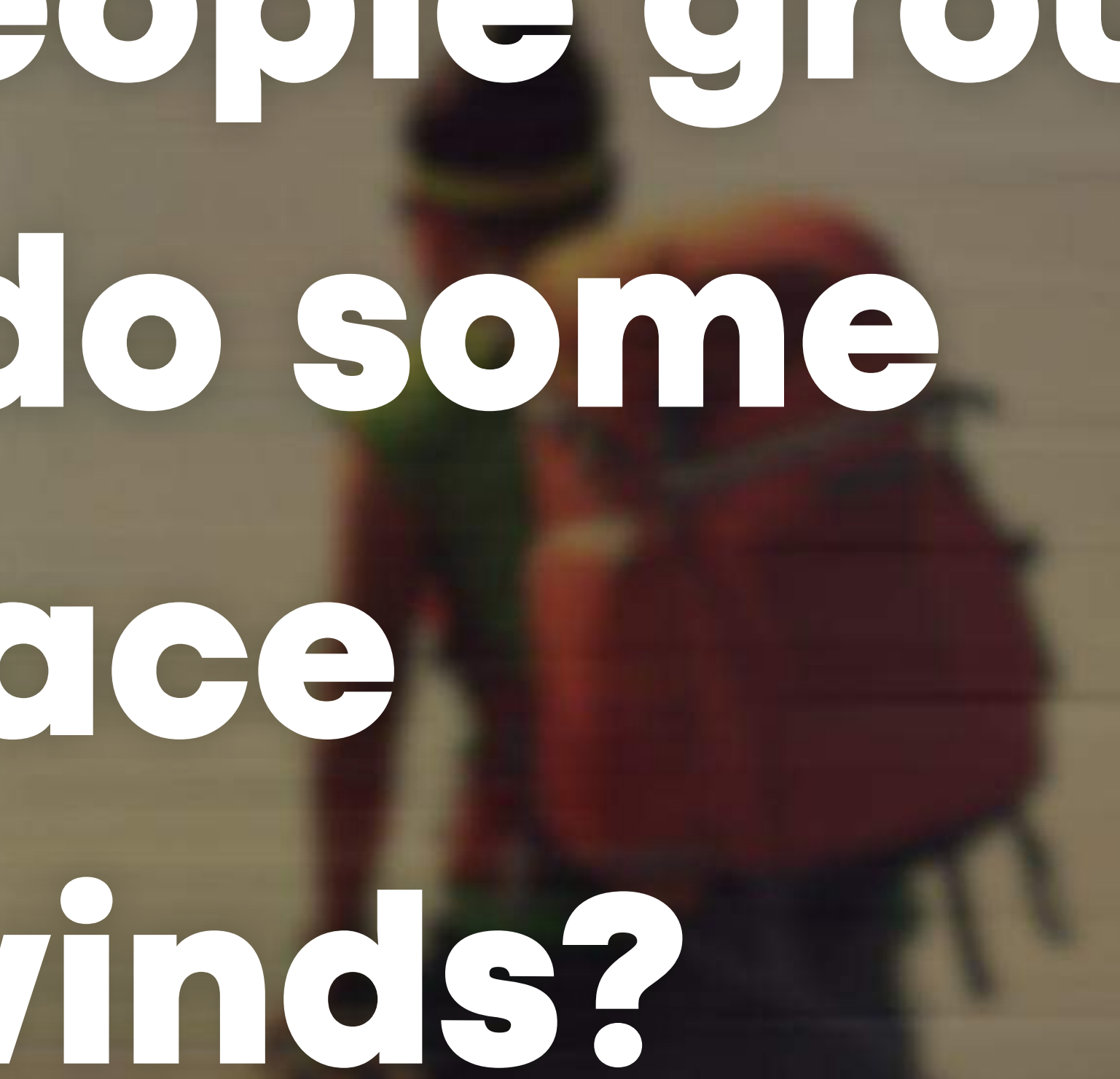
HOMES





LIVING WHEN
THE WORLD IS
WATCHING

Why do some people groups thrive and why do some people groups face immense headwinds?

A person with a large red backpack is hiking on a dirt trail. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and a path.

3 TRAITS THAT CAUSE SOME PEOPLE GROUPS TO THRIVE

Superiority Complex

a deeply internalized belief in your group's specialness, exceptionality.

Healthy Insecurity

you feel your group is exceptional, yet you personally still have something to prove.

Impulse Control

the capacity to sacrifice present gratification in pursuit of future attainment.

¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

3 MAJOR UNITS

God's grace and salvation

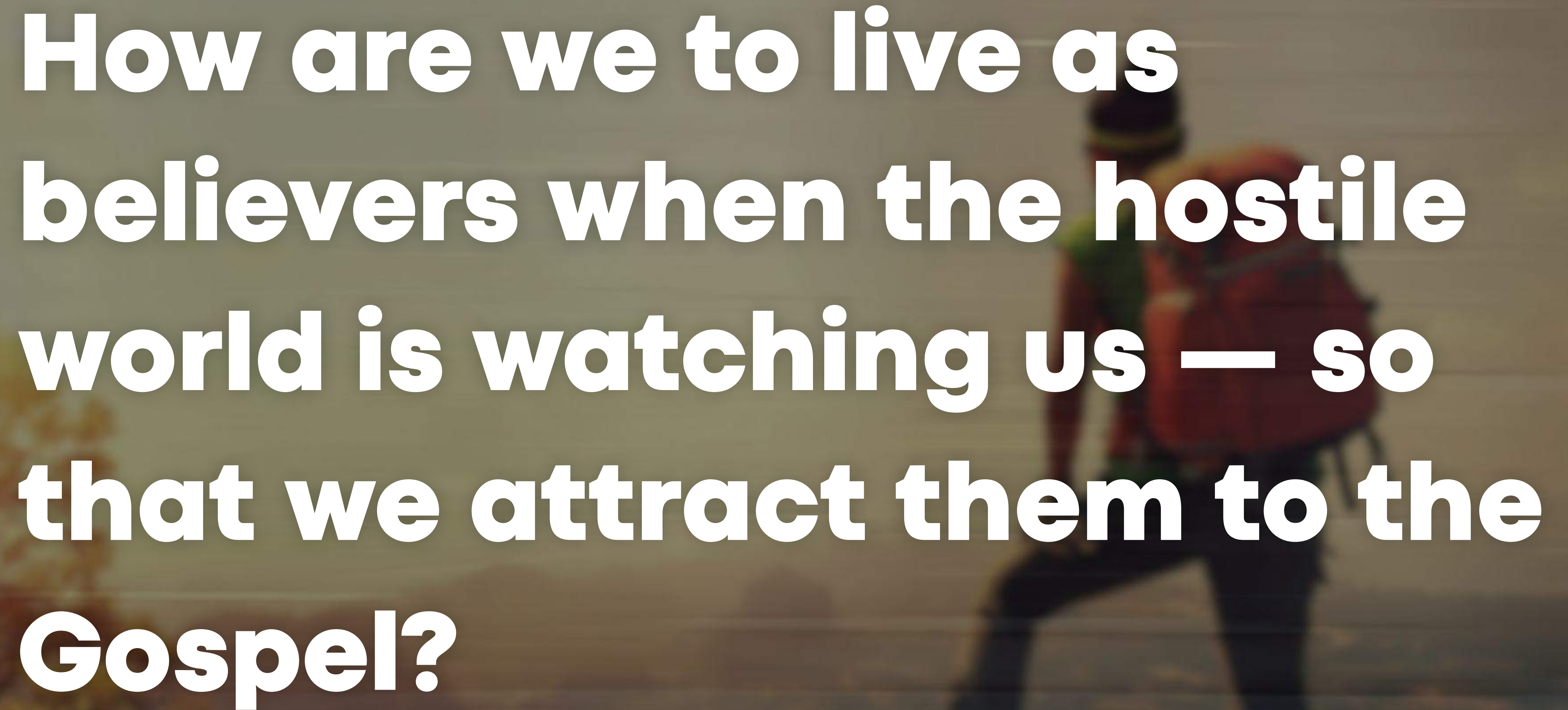
1 PETER 1:1- 2:10

God's grace in submission

1 PETER 2:11-3:12

God's grace in suffering

1 PETER 3:13-5:14

A person wearing a red shirt and dark pants is walking away from the camera on a path. They are carrying a large red bag or backpack. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a path.

**How are we to live as
believers when the hostile
world is watching us — so
that we attract them to the
Gospel?**

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

¹³ Be subject for the Lord`s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

LIVE LIKE AN ALIEN IMMIGRANT

1 Peter 2:11a | "I urge you as sojourners and exiles"

What is our identity?

Sojourners and exiles (immigrants and pilgrims)

This captures our calling in a fallen world

This simply acknowledges the reality of eternity.

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

**This world is not my home
I'm just a passing through
My treasures are laid up
somewhere beyond the blue**

**The angels beckon me
from heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home
in this world anymore**

— *Albert Brumley*

FIGHT LIKE A SOLDIER

1 Peter 2:11b | to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

We live in a war zone.

Cannot live with a peacetime mentality

Two Fronts:

- **Passions of the flesh**

- Not just sexual lust — fought in the little moments of life

- **Inordinate desires — good desires ruling your heart**

- These function as replacement gods

BEHAVE LIKE AN AMBASSADOR

1 Peter 2:12 | Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation

Live in such a way that brings honor and glory to God.

- You are always on call — 24/7
- You are all in "gospel" ministry
- Live so that your critics have no substance for their accusations

Mockers will become worshippers.

LETTER TO DIOGNETUS — CHAPTER 5

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 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.

LETTER TO DIOGNETUS — CHAPTER 5

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... those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred.

2nd Century AD

SUBMIT LIKE A CITIZEN

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

SUBMIT LIKE A CITIZEN

¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

SUBMISSION IS THE CITIZEN'S STRATEGY

"Be subject for the Lord's sake" — *not for Rome's sake.*

Peter is writing to people under Nero — social outsiders, religious minorities, already accused of destabilizing society.

The citizen's first concern is not their own rights —***it's the King's reputation.***

SUBMISSION SILENCES THE CRITICS

1 Peter 2:15 | For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

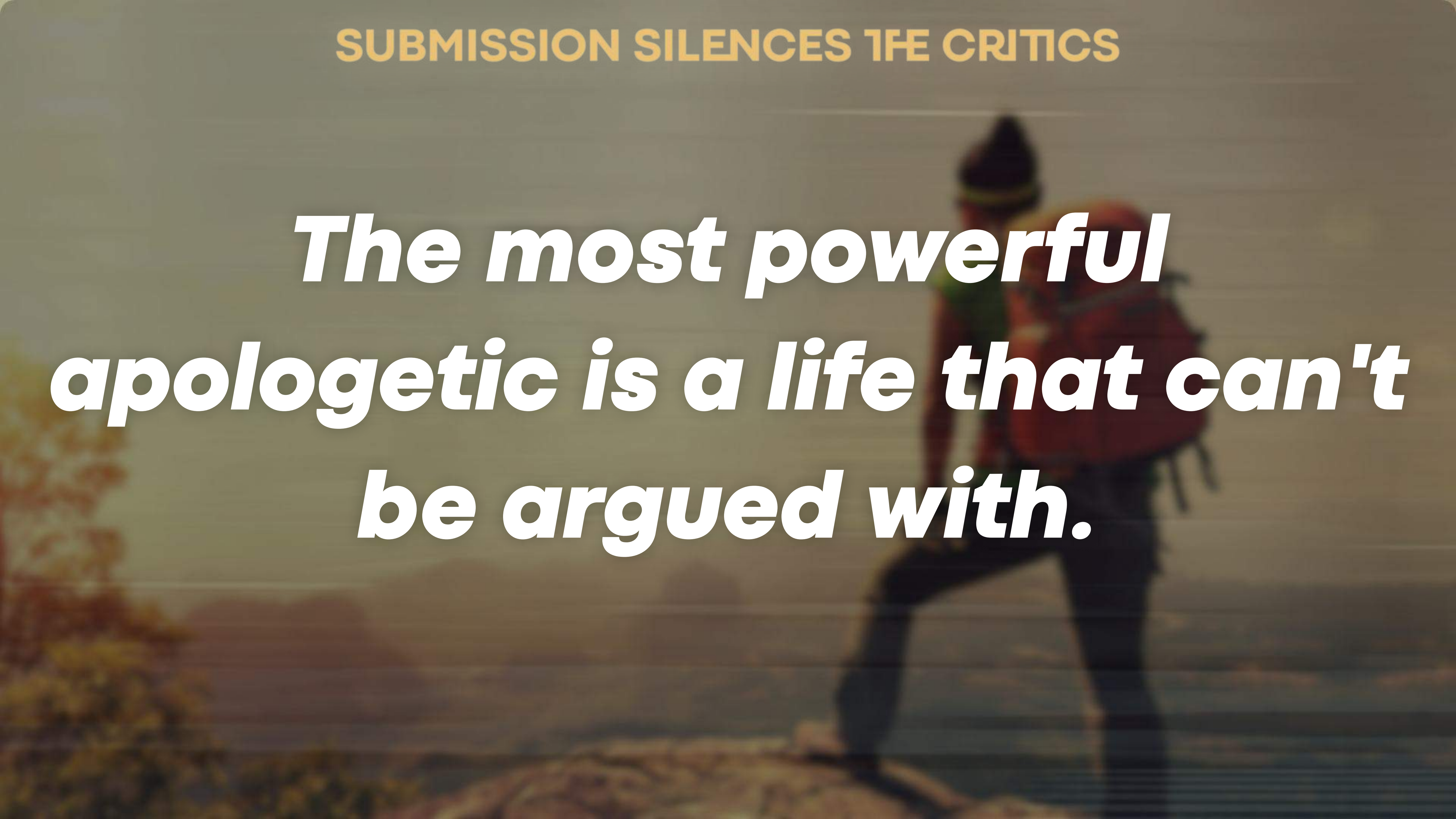
"Put to silence" The same word used when Jesus silences the storm — and the Pharisees.

Early Christians were called atheists, cannibals, subversives. Peter's answer:

- **Don't argue your way out.**
- **Live your way out.**

SUBMISSION SILENCES THE CRITICS

***The most powerful
apologetic is a life that can't
be argued with.***



FREEDOM USED RIGHTLY

1 Peter 2:16 | Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

The objection Peter anticipates:

"But aren't we free? Why should we submit to anything?"

Peter's answer: You are free — so act like it.

FREEDOM USED RIGHTLY

1 Peter 2:16 | Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

In our world

freedom = absence of constraint.

For Peter

freedom = the capacity to serve God without hindrance.

FREEDOM USED RIGHTLY

1 Peter 2:16 | Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

Using "Christian freedom" as an excuse to avoid accountability is not freedom — it's a cover.

FOUR RESPONSES AS CITIZENS

Honor everyone

*Every human, made in God's image
— the widest circle*

**Love the
brotherhood**

*Fellow believers receive something
deeper — love*

Fear of God

*Reverence belongs to God alone —
the center*

Honor the emperor

*The same word as everyone else —
not fear, not love*

PETER'S 3 TRAITS FOR THRIVING

Superiority Complex

**WE ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A
HOLY PRIESTHOOD!**

Healthy Insecurity

**KNOWING THIS WORLD IS NOT
OUR HOME GIVES US AN EDGE.**

Impulse Control

**ABSTAIN FROM SINFUL DESIRES
— FIGHT FOR YOUR SOUL.**

OUR EXAMPLE IN JESUS

Alien Immigrant

***"Foxes have holes... but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."
(Matt 8:20)***

Soldier

***Resisted Satan in the wilderness.
Gave his life to conquer sin.***

OUR EXAMPLE IN JESUS

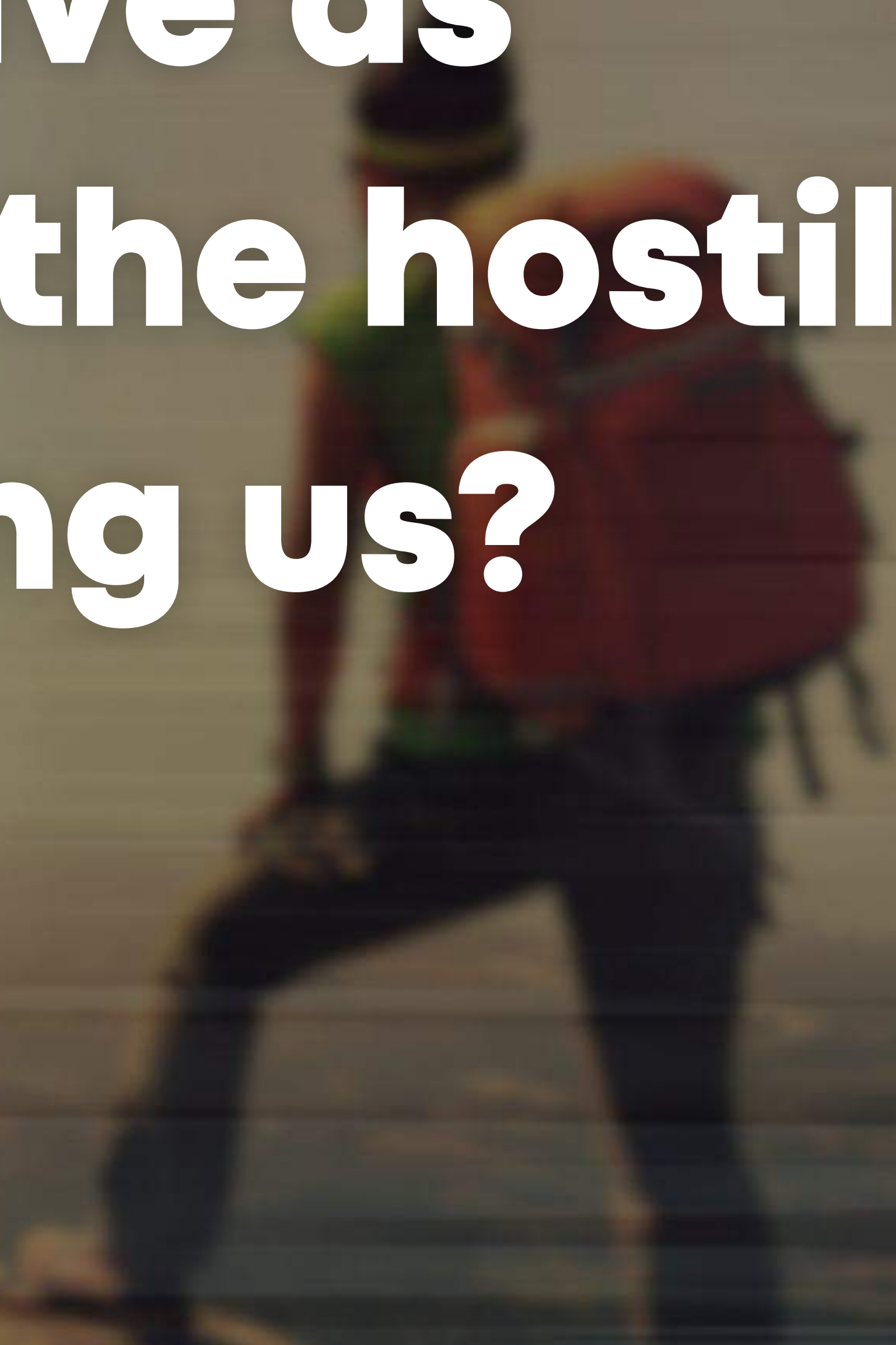
Ambassador

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)

Citizen

Paid the temple tax. Rendered to Caesar what was Caesar's — and to God what was God's.

**How are we to live as
believers when the hostile
world is watching us?**



**HOW ARE WE TO LIVE AS BELIEVERS WHEN THE HOSTILE
WORLD IS WATCHING US?**

LIVE LIKE AN ALIEN IMMIGRANT.

FIGHT LIKE A SOLDIER.

BEHAVE LIKE AN AMBASSADOR.

SUBMIT LIKE A CITIZEN.



The background of the image is a blurred photograph of two hikers on a trail. One hiker in the foreground is wearing a red jacket and a backpack, walking away from the camera. Another hiker is visible behind them. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a path.

Y IN THE ROAD

LEARN-APPLY-SHARE

- **What tent pegs do you need to pull up from this world?**
- **What activities and impulses do you need to abstain from?**
- **What is there in your life right now that attracts people to the gospel?**
- **Where do you find it hardest to submit to authority — and what does that reveal?**