

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. Peter addresses these people as "elect exiles." The word for "exiles" (parepidemois) is used two other times in the New Testament: 1 Peter 2:11; Hebrews 11:13.

1. Look up those verses and see what you can conclude about Christians being "exiles."

1 Peter 2:11 → it says we are to "abstain from the passions of the flesh" since we are demonstrating a pure allegiance to another kingdom.

Hebrews 11:13 → it describes people who were "strangers and exiles on earth" and that the heavenly kingdom is more desirable than this earth.

2. How does the phrase "elect exiles" shape the way you understand what it means to be a Christian in this world?

ELECT → we are chosen and precious in the sight of God.

EXILES → this world is not our home, but we live here to demonstrate our true treasure and home in heaven.

He is writing to those "of the Dispersion." This is most likely referring to a large group of Christians who have been dispersed throughout the cities listed because of persecution. Typically, when we hear the word "dispersed" we think of a random scattering of something like seeds tossed on the ground.

3. How does 1:2 affect the way in which you understand the places that Christians ("elect exiles") are "dispersed"? Are we dispersed randomly or intentionally? What are the implications of this?

All of us have been intentionally placed in our current residence by the plan of God. God has us where we are in life for a purpose. Our "station" in life is God's plan for us.

The phrase "according to" at the beginning of 1:2 means everything after that phrase was involved with the "election" part of "elect exiles." The word "elect" is used when God chooses someone for a purpose. It is also translated "chosen" in 1 Peter 2:4; 2:6; 2:9 and only refers to Christ and believers. So, the people Peter is writing to were "chosen" by God to be exiles, and it all happened according to the Trinitarian plan of God: foreknowledge of God [the Father], sanctification of the Spirit, and for obedience to Jesus Christ [the Son] and for sprinkling with his blood. Thus, each Person of the Trinity played a role in the election of your place of exile.

4. How does this affect you personally?

It can give us a great sense of assurance that each Person of the Trinity has a unique role for our place in life. We matter enough to God for each Person of the Trinity to be involved.

5. What specific role did each Person of the Trinity play in your purpose as an elect exile?

The Father → he sets the plan and course (foreknowledge)
Spirit → he intends to purify and make me more like Jesus (sanctification)
Son → he is the one we follow and trust, as well as find forgiveness (sprinkle with blood)

6. Why do you think this understanding of the role of the Trinity in your position as an elect exile is essential for living courageously on mission?

All three Persons of the Trinity are behind me, in me, and for me. My confidence rests there, so I can move forward towards outsiders knowing I will be cared for no matter what happens. 9