

As You Go Out

After we declare our intention, 'Christian'

- sometimes portrayed as:
 - intolerant, fundamentalist, boring, old fashioned, stuck in the mud
- people to be avoided because:
 - care about notches in the bible, critical, holier than thou, not full of grace

Peter has some wisdom for real believers who want their light to penetrate a dark world.

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“Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. As a result he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do - living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.”

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“The end of all things is near. Therefore, be clear minded and self controlled so that you can pray. Above all love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with all the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever, Amen.”

1 Peter 4:1-11

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Look at the first word - ‘therefore’

- *“For Christ died for sins once for all the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spiritwho has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand - with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.” 1 Peter 3:18,22*

- in light of these overwhelming truths

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1. Prepare Yourself

- *'arm yourselves also with the same attitude'*
- arm - military word, soldier putting on armor
- attitude - an unswerving resolve to do God's will
- because of the truth about Christ - arm yourself with the right attitude

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2. Prevent Distortion ...remember

- Sin no Longer Controls You (1b)
- We overcome Desires that rule Unbelievers (2a)
- We have Opportunity to Do God's Will (2b)

“It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” C.S. Lewis

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3. Persist - in a world that Does not understand

- They will not understand you (4)
 - your desires change
- They may malign you (4)
 - your convictions may not be supported
- remember - a light exposes darkness, the truth exposes the lie

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Four Things to Remember:

1. Use good judgment and Stay Calm through prayer. (7b)
 - exhibits the fruit of the spirit
2. Stay Passionate about Loving Others (8)
 - without love we cannot represent Christ
 - John 13:35 - the world will know we are Christians by our love

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3. Be Hospitable (9)

- word hospitable - 2 Greek terms meaning love and stranger
- ‘showing love to strangers’

4. Keep Serving One Another (10 - 11)

- Lumps serving and speaking together
- just word without willing actions

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So What

1. Prepare for a battle that is different
2. Prevent distortion in life by use of the truth
3. Persist in a world that cannot understand

BY:

- a) good judgment and a spirit of prayer
- b) loving others
- c) being hospitable
- d) serving one another