

THE BATTLE FOR YOUR WILL

The Letters of Peter #4

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(1 Peter 1:13–21, ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

When I understand who I am I will understand my need of holiness.

1. Preparing My Mind.

*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded...
(verse 13)*

- a. A mind set free from the influences of the world.
- b. A different way of thinking derived from a Biblical worldview.

2. Understanding Who I Have Become..

...the time of your exile, ... (verse 17)

(1 Peter 1:17, NLT) ... you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as “temporary residents.”

- a. Immigrant – assimilation to the world’s values

- b. Tourist – visitation in the world's pleasures
- c. Exile – separation from the world's values

For the Christians are distinguished from other men neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which they observe. For they neither inhabit cities of their own, nor employ a peculiar form of speech, nor lead a life which is marked out by any singularity. The course of conduct which they follow has not been devised by any speculation or deliberation of inquisitive men; nor do they, like some, proclaim themselves the advocates of any merely human doctrines. But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined, and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. 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 marry, as do all [others]; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. 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. They love all men, and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death, and restored to life. They are poor, yet make many rich; they are in lack of all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonoured, and yet in their very dishonour are glorified. They are evil spoken of, and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honour; they do good, yet are punished as evil-doers. When punished, they rejoice as if quickened into life; they are assailed by the Jews as foreigners, and are persecuted by the Greeks; yet those who hate them are unable to assign any reason for their hatred. *-Letter to Diognetus*

- i. Sex
- ii. Table
- iii. Forgiveness
- iv. Pro-Life

3. Contemplating the Cross is the Key to Changing My Will.

...set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (verse 13)

a. Change My Motivation

*(1 Peter 1:18–19, NLT) **For** you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.*

b. Only When I Understand What My Sin Cost God Will I Long For Holiness.

(John 17:19, NLT) I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.