

There ought to be something different about Christians due to our union with Christ. When the people in your life look at your attitude, behaviour, and attitudes, do they see something of Jesus beneath the surface? In our text this week, we learn that our faith in Christ should identify us as different from the world.

## Sermon Outline:

### 1 Peter 4:1-7 (Surprise them)

Verse 4 *"they are surprised when you do not join them"*

**Surprise** – the feeling caused by something that is unexpected or unusual.

Christians do not have to be creepy or weird to be different from the world.

#### CHRIST IS WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT!

- Jesus surprised everyone!
- Followers of Jesus should do likewise. Acts 4:13

### 2 NATURES at war within us.

Human Nature / Nature of God

Verse 2 – live *"no longer for human passions but for the will of God."*

#### THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A PROCESS OF DYING TO SELF AND LIVING FOR GOD

##### TWIN MOTIVATORS

1. What He did (past victory and example)
  - Sinners sin by nature
  - Christians do the will of God by nature.

Each day we must choose to die to our human nature and obey God. *(Jesus demonstrated this for us and empowers us to do likewise)*

*"arm yourselves with the same way of thinking"*

2. What He is about to do (future return and glory)

*"the end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded"*

We live in light of a soon coming king who will bring salvation to completion in this world.

Our obedience and faith in Jesus should surprise the people in our lives.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR GROUP QUESTION

- Have you ever met a creepy Christian? Have you ever been a creepy Christian? Where is the line between passion and downright weird?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the message we learned about how Jesus lived a surprising life. What surprises you most about Jesus' life?
2. Many people see Christ in someone else before receiving him for themselves. Was there someone in your life that helped point you to Jesus?

There are two natures at war within us: FLESH (human nature) & SPIRIT (God's will). As Christians we are called to die to self and live for God.

3. How does the example we have in Jesus empower us to live the Christian life RIGHT NOW? (example – I am being accused at work ... here's how Jesus responded when accused)
4. How does the imminent return of Jesus empower you to live as a Christian RIGHT NOW?
5. Is there something unexpected or unusual about your life? Would the people in your life (who don't know God) recognize that there is something different about you?
6. Prayer – suggested prayer request. Is there someone in your circle of influence who needs to know Jesus? Pray for opportunities to share Christ with them.

## 2 practical tips to arm yourself for the daily battles.

- Decide in advance how you will respond.
  - Find someone to stand with you.
7. Why is it helpful to decide in advance? (hint: your natural response may not be the correct one)
  8. Why do you think so many people want to fight their battles alone?

## Additional Reading / Devotions:

- Luke 9:23, Galatians 5:24 (**death to self**)
- Philippians 2 (**having the mind of Christ**)