



MAXIMUM
IMPACT



How can Christ-followers make the most meaningful impact on the unbelieving world? That was in Peter's mind when he wrote this letter to scattered believers facing hostility from their neighbors.

Four principles that transcend time stand out here; these will encourage us and empower us as we seek to influence our world for Christ and leave a lasting impression.

Maximum Impact - 1 Peter
2:11-17

Four principles will help you
make maximum impact

1. Realize Your Identity (1 Peter 2:11a)
Peter used the word *beloved* eight times
in 1 and 2 Peter

Like Billy Graham: "God loves you"
So that your incentive to do what He says to
do is because you love the One who loves
you

Sojourners (Travelers)

We live alongside people who make this
world their home

Pilgrims (Visitors)

A traveler; someone who stops by
temporarily but is on the move
You're loved by God, but you are not a
local – you're a foreigner

Realize Your Identity

Philippians 3:20

Because we are citizens of heaven, we will always be
square pegs in round holes

Knowing our identity will give us proper balance in life

Realize Your Identity

It will also give us proper incentive

Samuel Morris heard the Lord say, "You're not home yet"

We need to remember we're loved by God, but we're just passing through

2. Resist Your Impulses (1 Peter 2:11b)

Knowing who we are will help us know what to do when certain impulses and temptations come

The Internal Battles

1 Corinthians 10:13

Everyone has the impulse to do wrong things

2. Resist Your Impulses (1 Peter 2:11b)

The Spiritual War

Galatians 5:17; *lusts* = wars

"I have had more trouble with D.L. Moody than with any other man who has ever crossed my path" – D.L. Moody

2. Resist Your Impulses (1 Peter 2:11b)

Galatians 5:19-21

The solution: Galatians 5:16

If we live a Spirit-led life, we will have the power
to abstain from fleshly lusts

To *abstain* is to hold them away from you; don't let
them in

John Bunyan's *The Holy War*: when the Enemy
comes, close the gate

3. Reveal Your Integrity (1 Peter 2:12a)

What is private and inward must eventually
become public and outward

Before Your World

"Live such good lives among the pagans that,
though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may
see your good deeds and glorify God on the day
he visits us"

(v. 12, NIV)

3. Reveal Your Integrity (1 Peter 2:12a)

Unbelievers study us; they're watching to see if we fail

Peter was saying live so noble a life that any of those accusations won't stick

3. Reveal Your Integrity (1 Peter 2:12a)

For Your God

We as Christians are on stage; the bright light of the unbeliever is on us

What are they seeing?

"A saint is one who makes it easy to believe in Jesus"

—Ruth Graham

"Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died"

—Erma Bombeck

4. Remember Your Intention (v. 12b)

The ultimate goal is what it will do to unbelievers
"Day of visitation" is an Old Testament phrase used
to describe when God visits the earth with blessing or
judgment

A. God Glorified in Blessing

1. Ruth 1:6

2. God showed up with blessing

4. Remember Your Intention (v. 12b)

God Glorified in Judgment

Zechariah 10:3

Peter was speaking of the second coming of Christ;
it'll be a day of good news for some and a day of
bad news for others

4. Remember Your Intention (v. 12b)

How can a person who is observing a
Christian glorify God on the day of
visitation?

Your lifestyle will push them right over
into receiving Christ themselves
Or Philippians 2:10-11

Closing

To Christians: life is built on character
Character is built on choices and
decisions