

## *They Think It Strange*

**TEXT:** 1 Pet. 4:1-5

### **INTRODUCTION:**

A. SHOULD WE CARE WHAT OTHERS THINK?

1. What they think should not influence us to do wrong or disobey.
2. It's important because of our ability to influence (**Matt. 5:13-16**).

B. PAUL UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPRESSIONS (**2 Cor. 8:18-21**).

**I. WE ARE NOT TO BE PLEASERS OF MEN (Gal. 1:10).**

A. JESUS WARNED (**Luke 6:26; John 15:18-20**).

B. PETER'S DEVOTION (**Acts 5:29**). Not just empty words!

C. HYPOCRISY AND PEER PRESSURE (**Matt. 6:1; 1 Cor. 15:33**).

D. STRIVE TO BE RIGHT – READY TO BE DIFFERENT (**Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 6:14 - 7:1**).

E. **1 Pet. 4:4**. "SPEAKING EVIL OF YOU." A PECULIAR PEOPLE (**1 Pet. 2:9**).

**II. WHY PEOPLE THINK WE ARE STRANGE.**

A. BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN US (**1 Pet. 4:1-4**).

1. "The time past" è What was it like?
  - a. Dead in sin (**Rom 3:23; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3, 12**).
  - b. Gross immorality (**1 Cor. 6:9-10**).
  - c. A worldly walk (**Eph. 4:17-19**).
2. The WORD transforms us as we obey (**Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 2:11-12**).

B. BECAUSE OF OUR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE (**1 Pet. 4:2**).

1. What is most important to us? (**Matt. 6:19-21**).
2. We have a preoccupation that effects everything (**Col. 3:1-2; 2 Cor. 4:16-18**).
3. Our aspirations and behavior are misunderstood (**1 Cor. 2:14-16**).
4. New goals produce a new vision (**Phil. 1:27**).

C. BECAUSE THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM OF SIN.

1. Sin is hard on the sinner (**Prov. 13:15; 4:19**).
2. Sin dishonors God's creation (**Rom. 1:24**).
3. It separates us from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**).
4. Sin must be answered for in judgment (**2 Cor. 5:10**).
5. Sin will answer to justice (**Rom. 6:23; Ez. 18:20**).
6. Jesus is the solution to sin (**1 John 2:1-2**).

D. BECAUSE YOU RUN NOT WITH THEM.

1. We follow the light (**John 8:12**) and reflect it (**Matt. 5:13-15**).
2. We must not fellowship the darkness (**Eph. 5:6-11**).
3. Beware evil influences (**1 Cor. 15:33**).

E. BECAUSE SOME DO NOT BELIEVE.

1. To some the word of the cross is foolishness (**1 Cor. 1:18; Acts 26:24-25**).
2. God's witnesses (**Rom. 1:20; John 20:30-31; John 5:39**).

### **CONCLUSION:**

A. ARE YOU READY FOR THE JUDGMENT?

B. STRIVING TO BE RIGHT, READY TO BE DIFFERENT?

C. WHO DO YOU WANT TO PLEASE?