

To Sum it All Up

(1 Peter 4:7-11)

- Introduction:
1. The book of 1 Peter is as relevant today as it was when it was written.
 2. While I know it has an immediate context and was written to a people in a specific time and place; if you didn't know what was being read, you might think it was written specifically to you.
 3. But then we come to 1 Peter 4:7-11, and we have a pretty good summation of what a Christian is to be and to do.
 4. Let's take a look.

I. Be Alert

- A. (1 Peter 4:7).
- B. The end of all things is "at hand."
- C. Prayer in view of the Second Coming.

II. Be Loving

- A. (1 Peter 4:8).
- B. Above all (1 Peter 4:8; Mark 12:28-31).
- C. Love covers a multitude of sins.
 1. Love covers, not exposes the sins of another (Proverbs 10:12).
 2. Love moves one to repent and thus cover their sins (Romans 2:4).
- D. Love is the reason it is hard to love Jesus.

III. Be Hospitable

- A. (1 Peter 4:9).
- B. The Greek word that is translated as "hospitable" means to "love strangers."
- C. Note how he qualifies these acts of kindness – without grumbling.
- D. Not only must we be "do-gooders," we must also renew our minds (Romans 12:2) so that our good works are accompanied with good attitudes.

IV. Be a Good Steward

- A. (1 Peter 4:10-11).
- B. Whether these were miraculous gifts or the natural abilities that God gave us, we are to use them to his glory.
- C. (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
- D. Whatever we do should be done with humility, knowing that we could do nothing without God.

- Conclusion:
1. "To Sum it All Up" – I can't think of a better title for this section of Scripture.
 2. These five verses give us a beautiful summation of what it means to be a Christian - Look for Jesus' return, Love, and Serve.