

## What Manner Of Persons Ought Ye To Be?

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by Bill Crews

**P**lease read **2 Peter 3:1-12**, and pay special attention to **verses 11** and **12** and to the question: *“What manner of persons ought ye to be?”* Peter is asking Christians, in view of the temporal nature of the universe, in view of the definite and coming destruction of the physical heavens and earth, what manner of persons ought we to be, or what kind of lives must we be living? The question is rhetorical; the answer should be obvious. We must be a people given to holy living and godliness. *“Holy”* here means “set apart unto God.” *“Godliness”* means “devotion to God, a Godward attitude that leads one to be ever concerned about what is pleasing to God.”

### The Manner Of Persons Many Are:

1. The kind that selfishness has made them. See what Jesus requires in **Matthew 16:24** (self-denial).
2. The kind that jealousy, envy and hatred have made them. See what the Lord bids in **Ephesians 4:31-32**.
3. The kind that the love of money has made them. **1 Timothy 6:9-10** describes it.
4. The kind that the love of sensual pleasures has made them. The kind that complete abandonment and lack of discipline and self-control have made them. Read **Romans 1:24-32** for a description.
5. The kind that following the crowd or the path of least resistance has made them. See **Romans 12:1-2**.
6. The kind that the struggle for power and control have made them. But note what Jesus said about the pathway to greatness in **Matthew 20:25-28**.
7. The kind that worry and anxiety have made them. Read **Matthew 6:19-34** and **Hebrews 13:5-6**.

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1. In view of the fact that we are creatures of God, made in His image, and put here to glorify Him? **Acts 17:26-29; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 1 Corinthians 10:31**. We are not put here to sin, or to live selfishly, or to do as we please.
2. In view of the brevity and uncertainty of life? **James 4:13-17; 1 Peter 1:24**.
3. In view of the certainty of death and the resurrection of the dead? **Hebrews 9:27; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22**.
4. In view of the inestimable value of the soul? It is that part of man made in God’s image and that will never cease to be. **Matthew 10:28; 2 Peter 1:13-15; Matthew 16:26**. We are not to live as though it does not exist or as though physical things were more important.
5. In view of our duties and obligations to others? **Romans 13:8-9**. We are to be concerned about those who are in need and even more about the spiritual welfare of others.
6. In view of the coming and certain destruction of the universe? **2 Peter 3:11-12**. Don’t be like the world of people in Noah’s day when warned about their coming destruction unless they repented.
7. In view of the coming judgment and eternity. **Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:31-32, 34, 41, 46**.

Christians are to be sojourners and pilgrims here on this earth and in this life. **1 Peter 2:11-12**. Their real and lasting citizenship is in heaven (**Philippians 3:20**).

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