



Choosing the Right Kind of Allies September 11-12, 2021

1 Peter – Peter wrote this letter to the scattered Christians around the world, especially the non-Jewish foreigners. These believers were suffering intense persecution under the reign of Nero. Peter gives us the supernatural wisdom we need to face suffering by setting Christ at the center of our lives and being prepared to give everyone the Good News about Jesus.

2 Peter – Peter wrote this letter to encourage the same believers to stand firm in the face of overwhelming opposition. Peter makes it clear that the outside persecution was only one struggle they faced; unfortunately, there was strife and dissension among the believers. Peter concludes that the knowledge and wisdom necessary to overcome their circumstances is the Word of God.

1 John – John wrote this letter most likely to the 7 churches listed in the Book of Revelation. John presents his message in an uncomplicated way that clearly states there is right and there is wrong; and we must choose, as Christians, which side we will live on. John knew that we would never find the answer in ourselves. Instead we must place our Christian walk in the work and grace of God, as he is transforming us into Christ's image.

2 John – John adopts the term Elder as he refers to himself in this letter. John focuses on our fellowship with God and commands us to protect this fellowship at any cost. This letter makes it clear that our greatest badge of belief is to love one another just as we love God. He makes it clear that our love is fully dependent on our obedience to God.

3 John – John writes this final letter near the end of his life, most likely, from the island of Patmos where he was exiled for the distinct purpose of clearing up the difficulties caused by Diotrophes towards Gaius and the believers in the church. John makes it clear it only takes one arrogant ungodly man to wreck a great work of God.

How Do We Choose the Right Ally?

What's an ally? It's someone I unite and form a connection with based on our common interests.

Choose:

1 Christian allies who live the faith they claim.

1 Peter 2:11-12; 15-17 (NLT, TPT)

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. ... For it is God's will for you to silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing what is right. As God's loving servants, you should live in complete freedom, but never use your freedom as a cover-up for evil. Recognize the value of every person and continually show love to every believer. Live your lives with great reverence and in holy awe of God. Honor your rulers.

2 Christian allies who use their voice to speak hope, love and humility.

1 Peter 3:8-10 (NLT)

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. For the Scriptures say, “If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies.”

3 Christian allies who stay focused on God in the face of suffering.

1 Peter 5:8-11 (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power to him forever! Amen.

4 Christian allies who own their sinfulness and personal contrition.

1 John 1:8-10 (NLT)

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

5

Christian allies who courageously love the church no matter what.

3 John 1:5-6 (MSG)

Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. They've made a full report back to the church here, a message about your love.

3 John 1:9-10 (MSG)

Earlier I wrote something along this line to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves being in charge, denigrates my counsel. If I come, you can be sure I'll hold him to account for spreading vicious rumors about us. As if that weren't bad enough, he not only refuses hospitality to traveling Christians but tries to stop others from welcoming them. Worse yet, instead of inviting them in he throws them out.

6

Christian allies who work hard to love others the way God loves them.

1 John 4:7-10 (NLT)

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Memory Verse for September, 2021

1 Corinthians 9:22 (NIV)

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.



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