

1 PETER 2 – A HOLY NATION

I. THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE, BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS

A. Believers believe in Jesus Christ, that He died to pay for their sins, and then rose again. Believers will never be disappointed that they believed in Jesus.

B. Those who disbelieve don't experience the forgiveness and life of Christ, for they didn't see their need for Christ, and rejected Him. They will be righteously judged for their sins and suffer God's eternal wrath. John 1:9-13, Acts 17:30, John 3:36, John 5:24

C. God does not destine people to unbelief or hell, but He does appoint or assign judgement for those who do not believe, who reject Christ's command to repent of their sins. The fault for people not believing does not lie with anyone but themselves. John 5:24-30

II. YOUR IDENTITY AS A CHRISTIAN - 1 PETER 2:9-10

A. You are a chosen race. In eternity past, God selected you, chose you to be saved. This is unconditional election, for it was not based on what you did, but only on what God did. Spiritually speaking, Christians are a race of believers. Ephesians 2:11-18

B. You are a royal priesthood. "*Christ has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father.*" You are a priest and are to serve the King by carrying out the duties of the King. You are to serve the King by offering yourself to Him, and by doing all He wants you to do. Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6

C. You are a holy nation. Spiritually speaking, the church is a holy nation. We are God's people and are to be living holy lives. Deuteronomy 7:6-8

D. You are a people for God's own possession. You were bought with a price, the blood of Christ, the death of Christ, and were rescued from the devil's kingdom, and brought into Christ's kingdom. Therefore, you are owned by God, and are to do everything He wants you to do. Colossians 1:13-14

E. You've been shown mercy, are forgiven, and are God's people. 1 Peter 2:10, Titus 3:5

III. YOUR PURPOSE AS A CHRISTIAN IS TO PROCLAIM CHRIST – 1 PETER 2:9c

You are to proclaim the excellencies of God. You should be thankful for God showing you mercy, and therefore should tell others how they can be forgiven, how they can be given eternal life, and become a child of God. Psalm 96:2-3

IV. YOUR PURPOSE AS A CHRISTIAN IS TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE – 1 PETER 2:11-12

- A. Peter addresses the Christians as “*beloved,*” or loved ones.
- B. Peter is urging us to live holy lives. Romans 12:1
- C. We are “*aliens and strangers,*” and are left on earth to serve God. Psalm 84:4-7
- D. We need to learn to abstain from fleshly lusts. The internal conflict we have with sin is the greatest conflict we have, and we must get victory over it. Romans 6-8
- E. We are to keep our behavior excellent. As we live in the world, we are to be different, and are to live holy lives, carry out good deeds, and be loving and serving others.
- F. As Christians we are to be the light of the world. We want people to see our good works - we want our lives to shine so that it is obvious to others that we are Christians, and that we are different in a good way. Our prayer is for our lives to affect unbelievers in such a way that they turn to Christ, are saved, and give glory to God. Matthew 5:14-16

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN IN SUCH A WAY
THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS,
AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.
Matthew 5:14, 16

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What is the difference between believers and unbelievers? How do you tell them apart?
3. Why do people go to hell? Are unbelievers predestined to hell?
4. Why is it so important to understand who you are as a Christian as spoken of in 1 Peter 2:9?
5. How does it affect you when you think about how God has shown you mercy?
6. What does it mean to proclaim Christ by your words? What should you tell unbelievers?
7. Give examples of keeping your behavior excellent, of living a holy life?