

1 Peter 2:4–10

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,”

8 and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Local Church Part 4 1 Peter 2:9-10

INTRO:

The Apostle Peter in his first letter to the brethren scattered abroad, encouraged these suffering believers by describing who they were as God’s Church. Last time we looked at the fact that the church is God’s New Covenant Priesthood. We, the church, also have an important identity. The Lord made us these things in order that we might fulfill our purpose motivated by His great grace to us.

I. Our Identity (v. 9)

II. Our Purpose (v. 9)

III. Our Motivation (v. 10)

I. Our Identity (v. 9)

1 Peter 2:9 *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

A. The Apostle Peter employs four images to engrave on our hearts and minds our identity before God. Each of these images are drawn from the Old Testament, **Isaiah 43** and **Exodus 19** to be specific. In three of these pictures he uses three different words to describe us, who are God’s people through the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will identify those words as we arrive at each picture.

B. The first image is *“But you are a chosen generation.”* One of Peter’s favorite words is *“precious.”* A second favorite word in this book is *“chosen”* or *“elect.”*

1. Remember what we have learned about salvation. Salvation has two parts which are like two sides of one coin. We who know the Lord as Savior are saved because we have put our faith in the Lord Jesus to save us. At the very same time we are saved because we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the World. The writers of the New Testament have no problem with either side of the coin. They believe both and accept both as not contradictory. If we do not understand this we will completely miss the blessing of the first picture. We are the ones God chose to be His people. We are Christians not by accident, but precisely because God set His love upon us.

2. The first of the three words for God’s people translated, *“generation,”* is the word from which we get genus. We are a unique classification of species. We are not just homosapiens, we are a unique class. We are a people God has chosen, called, justified, and will glorify.

B. (2) We are also *“a royal priesthood.”* In what sense are we a royal priesthood? The description means we are a priesthood which belongs to the King and functions for the King. This description comes from **Exodus 19:6**. There the whole of Israel being a kingdom of priests or a royal priesthood did not preclude some being practical priests, i.e. the sons of Aaron.

1. The last time we saw this identity in **2:5** we identified our function to offer spiritual sacrifices to God. Here the emphasis is on the fact that we serve God and mediate His blessings to others.

2. The great example of our median is the Lord Jesus Christ for us. That mediation is how Christ is our mediator.

1 Timothy 2:5 *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”*

When we pray for others we enter into this mediation ministry for others. When we share the Gospel with others we enter into this priestly ministry of mediation of God’s grace.

Romans 15:15–16 (NASB95) *“But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”*

C. (3) We are a holy nation, The idea of holiness is hard to define. The living God is *“holy, holy, holy”* (Isaiah 6:3). But we too are to be holy.

1 Peter 1:15–16 *“As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”*

We should be a people set apart to Him, whose behavior marks us as His people. The word translated *“nation”* means *ethnicity*. We are marked out not by where we are from, but by how we live.

D. (4) We are *“His own special people.”* These categories and pictures overlap. This category is important because, although there is a sense in which the whole world and all its peoples are God’s, we are uniquely God’s special people. This the point of passages like **Exodus 19:5**.

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.”

II. Our Purpose (v. 9)

1 Peter 2:9 *“In order that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

A. God did this so we might declare His excellences. He is God and God alone. We must declare this to one another and to others.

B. Second, He did this so we might show how He called us out of the darkness of sin into the blessing of His marvelous light.

III. Our Motivation (v. 10)

1 Peter 2:10 *“Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”*

A. Our motivation to do this is because of the great deliverance we have received in Christ Jesus. The language here is from Hosea. These are the names of Gomer's children which Yahweh applies to Israel. Later in the book the LORD declares that He lifted the curse of some. Some Israelites who were not loved, God loved. Some who were not the people of God are now His people.

B. Peter applies this passage here to Jews and Gentiles alike. God when He saved us, declared us who were unlovable, His loved ones. Those who were not His people now are the people of the living God.

So, hear **1 Peter 1:9-10** again.

***“But you are a chosen generation,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
His own special people,
so that you may proclaim the excellences of Him who called you out of
darkness into His marvelous light;
who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not
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Hymn #283 *We Aare His People*