

## God's People; 1 Peter 2:9-10

### I. Identity

- A. Often our identity is caught up in employment, hobbies, sports, nationality
- B. Who are we?

### II. Chosen Race

- A. Elect - A group of people chosen by God for a particular purpose, usually for salvation
  - 1. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14; 13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Our fate is not predetermined by God, to choose Him (or not to choose Him)
  - 3. The gospel calls us and we either submit to or refuse its calling
  - 4. Those who submit to the gospel are chosen - to choose for a special favor
  - 5. 1 Thessalonians 5:9; For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - 6. Matthew 22:1-14
  - 7. We are a chosen (accepted the invitation and clothed ourselves in wedding garments) race
- B. Race is such a sensitive topic today
  - 1. I researched many sites that argued that there are not races of people, but only one human race
  - 2. 99.9% of our DNA is the same; the .1% that is not shared is diversity
  - 3. This “diversity” is where we get our different “races”
  - 4. I would agree with this, considering God made them male and female - Genesis 1:27
- C. God recognized different groups of people, it would seem, by the location where they lived
- D. This may have come from their names as well
  - 1. Noah's son, Ham, fathered Canaan, where we get the term Canaanite, the land of Canaan
  - 2. The clans' names may have also come from the location where they lived
  - 3. Hivites comes from the word meaning “village dwellers”
  - 4. Amorites comes from the word meaning “mountain dwellers”
- E. God differentiation is not based on who is better than who (which is the beginning of racism) but on who belongs to Him
- F. In the New Testament, God's distinction is based on their dwelling place, their home, their citizenship
  - 1. Philippians 3:17–21; 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
  - 2. Ephesians 2:19–20; 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

- G. We are a chosen race (elect people) - a group of people who have accepted God's invitation; on whom God has shown special favor by washing us in the blood of His son, Jesus

### III. Royal Priesthood

- A. In the Old Testament, priests were not part of royalty
- B. Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin; David and Solomon from Judah
  - 1. All the kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah were from the tribe of Judah
  - 2. The majority of the kings of Israel were not from the tribe of Levi (some do not have genealogies listed)
- C. History has shown us that we as people really can't make this work
- D. The nation of America was started because of the oppressive nature of the King of England who was also the head of the Church of England
  - 1. "The Church of England was among the churches that broke with Rome. The catalyst for this decision was the refusal of the Pope to annul the marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, but underlying this was a Tudor nationalist belief that authority over the English Church properly belonged to the English monarchy." [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) Archbishops' Council 2014
- E. But God's design was never to be played out in the worldly sense
  - 1. Revelation 5:9-10; 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
  - 2. Just as the Levitical priesthood was designed to minister to the needs of the Israelites, we as Christians are to minister to the needs of this world
  - 3. Isaiah 61:1-6; 1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; 6 but you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.
- F. The church reigns on the earth, a beacon that denotes the safe harbor and points out the rocks and reefs
- G. We are a Royal Priesthood - a group of people who are heirs to the throne of the King, who minister to a world in need

### IV. Holy Nation

- A. Holy - Set apart for a divine purpose
- B. This word is translated as either "holy" or "saints", with one exception
  - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:2; To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

2. Hebrews 9:1–3; 1 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of **holiness**. 2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the **Holy Place**. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the **Most Holy Place**,
  3. The word used to describe us (saints) is used to describe the earthly place of holiness, the holy place and the most holy place
- C. Nation - a large group of people based on various cultural, physical, or geographical ties
1. This is where we get the English word “ethnic”
  2. We are caught up... no, bound up, held captive, in our ethnicity, so much so that it has caused many divisions in our human race
  3. We divide over color, language, geography, culture, etc.
    - a) The hosts of Top Gear often divides Europe and America by the ability to make good automobiles
    - b) How often have we seen fights in schools over American and Mexican holidays
    - c) How many cities have areas where one primary language (other than the host language) is spoken (San Francisco, Los Angeles and Manhattan all have a China Town)
  4. We can be so caught up in our “heritage” that we forget exactly what our heritage really is! Eternal Life!
    - a) Color - Christianity is no respecter of persons, we cannot divide along the lines of the color of our skin
    - b) Language - Our language is that of the bible! We should strive to speak the words of God in every language we know (or can)
    - c) Geography - we have been transferred from this domain of darkness, this sin sickened earth, and have been transferred to the Kingdom of God’s beloved son
      - (1) We are all residents of the kingdom, not of American, Mexico, Canada, Cuba or anywhere else!
      - (2) We have given up our earthly home for a heavenly one
    - d) Culture - we have traded our ethnic culture for that of the Christian culture
      - (1) No longer are we held captive by our cultural holidays, feast days, gift days, etc.
      - (2) We celebrate Jesus both crucified and risen!
      - (3) We celebrate His victory over death that gives us life!
- D. This world is not my home, I’m just-a passin’ through. My treasures are laid up, somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me through Heaven’s open door, and **I can’t feel at home in this world anymore**
1. Hebrews 11:13–16; 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.
- E. We are a people who belong to God, not to some earthly country!
- F. Our nation is one made up of saints who have given themselves in service to God in HIS KINGDOM
- G. We are GOD’S PEOPLE!

V. God's People

- A. We were without mercy
- B. Now we have received mercy
- C. To whom do you belong?
- D. Are we part of God's elect (a chosen people)
- E. Are we heirs to the King and ministers to the world?
- F. Are we a nation of saints, set apart for the work of God?