

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ^a Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

^b Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ^c when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ^d Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ^e Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ^f For this is the way the holy women of the past put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ^g like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

It is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."^h
ⁱ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ^j For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ^k but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ^l He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ^m Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ⁿ Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.^o ^p For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ^q For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ^r but the word of the Lord endures forever."^s And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 PETER

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ^a or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ^b For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ^c Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ^d Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ^e Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ^f now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People
^g As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ^h you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house ⁱ to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ^j For in Scripture it says:

ONE BOOK

Sermon Discussion Questions

07-19-26

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Sermon Series: One Book - 1 Peter

Week 2: Remember Who You Are

1. ICE BREAKER: Pastor Dale joked that after a couple of weeks in England, he was convinced the American Revolution had something to do with air conditioning and ice.

What's one modern inconvenience that you would have the hardest time living without? Why?

2. Read our Scripture for this week, 1 Peter 2:9-10:

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

What stands out to you most in this passage? What do you think Peter wanted his readers to understand about who they are?

3. We learned that God is building a people for himself. For some this is a familiar idea. For others, it's something new.

What does this statement mean to you at this stage in your faith journey?

4. Read 1 Peter 2: 9a. *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession..."*

Chosen People - We learned that prevenient faith means before you were looking for God, He was looking for you.

Does knowing this change the way you think of God? How does being chosen by God influence the way you live?

5. Royal Priesthood - As royalty, we are sons and daughters of the King. Priesthood means we have royal authority as children of God. This means God wants us to represent Him and help others know Him.

How does being God's child give you confidence? What does it mean to represent Him in everyday life?

6. Holy Nation - Holy is something set apart for a special purpose. Pastor Dale explained that "we" are that special something. We are set apart to reflect God and his purpose.

How has belonging to God made you different? What area in your life could reflect God more clearly?

7. We can choose what we think about ourselves, or we can choose to believe what God says about us. When we begin to see ourselves as a people chosen and set apart by God for His special purposes, we can once again reclaim the power of God released in our lives and in the world around us. It's about identity.

What voices are shaping how you see yourself? What makes it challenging to believe what God says about you?

8. Read 1 Peter 2: 9b-10. *"...that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*

Mercy ≠ anger, judgement, co-dependence, or fear

Mercy = refusing to give up on someone, being inconvenienced for the sake of another, or speaking the truth in love

When has someone shown mercy in your life? How can you reflect God's mercy in your life?

9. PRACTICE: Have someone in your group put on music. (We suggest "Soaking in His Presence" if you need a recommendation!)

- Reflect on Peter's invitation for us in these verses:
 - "But you are chosen..." (1 Peter 2:9a)
 - "...but now you are the people of God;" (1 Peter 2:10a)
 - "...but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:10b)
- Which truth stands out most to you?
- What is God reminding you?
- How can you live this out this week?