

A People Belonging to God

1 Peter 2.9-12

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **a people belonging to God**, 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.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹² 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.

Peter uses a rich variety of words to describe the privilege we have in being 'a people belonging to God.' Every privileged position brings its own peculiar pressures but those who enjoy the blessings and appreciate the advantages of the corporate nature of spiritual experiences do not shirk the pressures.

⁵ Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a **kingdom of priests** and a **holy nation**. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites. Exodus 19.5b-6

²⁰ The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to **my people, my chosen**,

²¹ the people I formed for myself **that they may proclaim my praise**. Isaiah 43.20-21

The Privilege of Being 'a People Belonging to God'

- First of all he calls us 'a chosen people.'
- Second, we are called 'a holy people.'
- Third, we are called 'a people belonging to God.'

¹⁷ 'They will be mine,' says the LORD Almighty, 'in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.' Malachi 3.17-18

- Fourth, we are 'a called people.'
- Fifth, we are 'a people who have received mercy.'

Hosea 1.6-11; 2.23

The Privilege of Being a 'Royal Priesthood'

With Privilege There is Responsibility

- We must accept our status as 'aliens and strangers.'
- The second part of the price is that we 'abstain sinful desires.'
- The price of privilege also means we must absorb the slander.

As Privileged People We Have Opportunity

- To 'declare the praises of him who called you...'
- To 'live such good lives among the pagans...'
- So 'they may see your good deeds and glorify God...'

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