

FIRST PETER The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 12

2:9-10— “We are God’s People”—May 24, 2015

“The [Flesh] urges me to flight, to solitude in the mountains, to quietude of soul and body...But the other, the Spirit, would lead me into the midst of life, to serve the common [good], and by furthering others, to further myself, to spread light, and to present to God a people for His possession, a holy people, a royal priesthood, and His image again purified in many.”

—Gregory of Nazianzus, 4th Century

The Christian’s Election and Exile—1 Peter 1:1-2

The Christian’s Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-12

The Christian’s Life in Relation to God—1 Peter 1:13-2:3

The Christian’s Position in the People of God—1 Peter 2:4-10

- Christ, the Living Stone—1 Peter 2:4-8

Christians, God’s Chosen Possessions—1 Peter 2:9-10

Our Collective Identity as Christians:

“⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession...”

- This passage continues the contrast that Peter is drawing between Christians and unbelievers.
- Peter makes a comparison with the nation of Israel to demonstrate to Christians the privileged position that they have because of their relationship to God. He accomplishes this with allusions to several OT passages.

“...a chosen race...”—Deut. 10:15; Is. 43:20

⇒ γένος — *genos* — Refers to those of common *descent*.

Implication: Though multi-ethnic and transnational, as Christians we are to view ourselves as members of one _____.

“...a royal priesthood...”—Ex. 19:6; Is. 61:6

⇒ βασιλειος — *baselaos* — Can mean kingdom/king’s house. Its use here is *descriptive*.

Implication: Though Christians may come from humble circumstances, we are representatives of the _____ of _____, mediating His presence to the surrounding world.

“...a holy nation...”—Duet. 7:6; Ex. 19:5

⇒ ἔθνος — *ethnos* — Refers to a people of common *culture*.

Implication: The way Christians choose to live should _____ our identity as the elect children of God the Father.

“...a people for his own possession...” —Is. 43:21

Implication: Christians have been _____ with the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:19) and therefore we must recognize that our life (corporately and as individuals) is not our own.

“...so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

- This explains the purpose of the previous statements.
 - ⇒ Conveys the concept of active _____ endeavor.
 - ⇒ The context of this terms usage is primarily that of public _____.
- Metaphor: Called out of darkness and into light. (Acts 26:16-18; Col. 1:13)

Our Collective Position Before the Lord, Past and Present:

*“¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

- Peter offers a series of contrasts to remind Christians of God’s grace to them.
 - ⇒ We were a people condemned to a life of meaninglessness. (Eccles. 1:2-2)
 - ⇒ We were a people deserving of the eternal wrath of God. (Eph. 2:3)

Illustration: The children of the prophet Hosea’s wife, Gomer. (Hos. 1:6-8, 2:23)

What is Peter doing in this passage?

Peter wants Christians to know the collective _____ we have in Christ.

Peter wants to remind Christians of our call to worship Jesus Christ _____.

Peter wants Christians to cultivate an attitude of humility and _____ as we recall who we were before we came to Christ and all that is now ours in Him.