

Studies in 1 Peter - Discussion Guide for Community Groups

Session 8: A Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9,10)

Background

Generally, when we refer to someone that is a priest, they are a part of a religious sect. They became a priest through the ordination of a manmade organization. The priesthood that Peter is referring to is a priesthood that is a construct of God. Just imagine, we are priests that have been appointed by God, Almighty!

Bible Text: 1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJV

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.

One of the debates that has raged through the church for centuries deals with the sovereignty of God verses the free will of man. I consider the debate to be somewhat futile in the sense that fully understanding how a sovereign God works may be beyond the ability of our human intellect. However; there are some things that we know because God has revealed them through the teaching of the Apostles. So, what do we know?

- We know that God loves us. John 3:16 NKJV *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- We know that God has made eternal life available through the work of Jesus Christ. Romans 6:23 NKJV *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- We know that those that believe in Jesus have the right to become God's children; and that we are saved through the will of God. John 1:12-13 NKJV *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: [13] who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Read Verse 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...

- We live in a time where people struggle with their identity. Peter describes the identity of those that are in Christ Jesus. Here is our identity in Christ: (How would you describe the meaning of these descriptive words?)
 - A chosen generation
 - A royal priesthood

- A holy nation
- God's own special people
- What is the significance of being "called out of darkness into His marvelous light?"
(Refer to 1 John 1:5-7 NKJV *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*)

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

- What does it mean to you to belong to "the people of God?"
- How would you describe the working of God's mercy?

Wrap-up: The Apostle Paul describes what the life of a Christian looks like in theological terms. Galatians 2:20 NKJV I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- We are a royal priesthood. As priests who serve royalty, we find our identity in Jesus. We live for Him; we serve His purposes; we walk in obedience; we represent Him as ambassadors; we walk in freedom from fear, sin, and condemnation. We are a royal priesthood!