

Being Special

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

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

Have you ever had someone who made you feel special.

When Nancy was a young girl, her family didn't have much. Her mother often sent her to school with a lunch that was poorly prepared. One day her teacher saw what she had brought and took it and threw it in the garbage. Then her teacher took her home with her for lunch every day for the rest of the school year.

That teacher didn't owe her anything and I doubt that Nancy was that great of a student. So why did she do that? We will not know in this life. But one thing for sure she made Nancy feel very special.

But what God has done for us is much more than that.

It is interesting that similar things are said about Israel in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 7:6–9 (NKJV)

6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. 7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

Psalm 135:4 (NKJV)

4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

Deuteronomy 14:2 (NKJV)

2 For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

But now God has chosen a new nation, a new people, a new race, His own peculiar possession.

So how do I know we are special.

I. We have been chosen by God as His special race.

A. Race is a big thing today.

1. Bigger than it was in the 60's
- B. But in God's view there are but two races.
1. It doesn't have anything to do with the pigment color of our skin.
 2. Just think of the distress over the pigmentation of our skin.
 3. Rather it has to do with if we are God's people or not.
 - a. God has chosen His own people.
 - b. He chose according to His own purpose.
 - (1) Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV)
 - (a) 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
 - (2) Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)
 - (a) 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
 - c. Not of him who wills or of him who runs but of God who out of His sovereign mercy chose us to be His.
 - (1) Romans 9:15–16 (NKJV)
 - (a) 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."
16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.
- C. We are the chosen in Christ Jesus.
1. We are the sheep of His pasture.
 - a. John 10:26–30 (NKJV)
 - (1) 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

- D. Since it is God’s sovereign choice we have nothing to boast in.
 - 1. Exodus 33:19 (NKJV)
 - a. 19 Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

- II. We have a special relationship with God that is even better than that of the angels.
 - A. A royal priesthood.
 - 1. We covered this in the last two weeks.
 - B. We are more blessed than the angels.
 - 1. Jesus did not die for them.
 - 2. They are servants, we are family.
 - 3. We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ.
 - a. Romans 8:17 (NKJV)
 - (1) 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- III. We are a holy nation.
 - A. Our defining character is that we are holy.
 - 1. First, we are holy because we have the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Philippians 3:9 (NKJV)
 - (1) 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
 - 2. Second, we are holy in that we live lives separated from sin.
 - a. None are perfect but that is what we are looking to be.
 - b. We see sin as an offense to our loving heavenly Father.
 - B. In the same way that when God chose Abram and a new nation was born.
 - C. So we are a part of this holy nation of God followers.
 - 1. Romans 8:29 (NKJV)
 - a. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to

the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

IV. His special people

A. Acquired possession.

1. Has the idea of a purchased possession.
2. Something obtained with great cost or effort.

B. To declare His praises.

1. See last weeks message.

C. Having been brought out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1. That darkness is where we were.
2. That darkness is where the world now is.
 - a. 1 darkness. 1A of night darkness. 1B of darkened eyesight or blindness. 2 metaph. 2A of ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the accompanying ungodliness and immorality, together with their consequent misery in hell. 2B persons in whom darkness becomes visible and holds sway. *James Strong, Enhanced Strong's Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).*
3. Light and darkness illustrate the complete opposites of where we were and where we are now.
 - a. That speaks of the tremendous change that has taken place in our lives.
4. But also it is His light, His marvelous light.
 - a. Many claim to have the light to bring light to others but are themselves still in darkness.

D. We once were none of these things but now we have obtained mercy.

1. And how did this all happen, by mercy.
2. But God's mercy is sovereign.
 - a. Romans 9:15 (NKJV)
 - (1) 15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."
3. We have life, light, everlasting life.
4. We have a flow of water springing up to everlasting life.

5. We have be shown the truth and we know Him who is true.
6. We have passed from death to life.
7. Our sins have been washed away and buried in the depths of the deepest sea.

We are God's special people.

No one can offer us more.