

# The People of God

## 1 Peter 2:1-10

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

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- ❖ **1 Peter 2:9-10** —<sup>9</sup> 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; <sup>10</sup> who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- ❖ **Who are your people?**

Often in our culture, such a question can be frowned upon by those who champion modern individualism. Today, the highest good is the individual's identity of themselves *as an individual* and group dependence or group identification can be a sign of weakness.

- ❖ **The people plea and Peter gives odd advice?**

- The people are scattered (1 Peter 1:1)—you are begotten to a new living hope.
- The people are persecuted (1 Peter 1:6)—you believe in a God you can't see because He is absent.
- The people struggle with faith (1 Peter 1:13—be holy, like God, and stop being deceitful and speaking evil (2:1).
- The people lose their confidence (1 Peter 2:2-3)—Jesus is a stone and you are a house; in fact, you are the bricks.

- ❖ **Maybe we miss Peter's point—community.**

- We believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures so clearly, Peter's advice wasn't off base. The Scriptures always give instruction where it is needed. Now in chapter 2, Peter tells them that despite their situation, they are part of a people.
- Peter's point seems to be that the fact they are a people means they are part of a community, and a community can be a comfort.
- As a scattered, persecuted people, they need to stick together. Ecc. 4:9-10

- ❖ **Everybody has a people, right?**

- We all were born into a family, and our families reside in nations. Doesn't this make us a people? We are made up of other people; we even look like our family. We take on a name of our family; we take on the traditions and language of our country; doesn't this make us a people? Does this give us hope?
- Even today, we see the world around us searching for an identity. Although sometimes this searching looks foolish, it still is a powerful desire to be connected to a people, or know to whom we are connected.

- ❖ **Not everybody has a people**

- "You...who were once not a people, but now are the people of God" (2:10). Apparently, the familial, national or racial ties that bound them to a people before they received mercy, does not create the kind of people group being referred to here.
- Peter's letter is full of contrasts—corruptible vs. incorruptible, kept by God vs. fading away, defiled vs. undefiled. It is as though the other people groups are corruptible, fading away but when God creates a people, it is permanent and endures.
- Note the verses in Hosea 11:1; Amos 3:2. This describes the people of Israel, but who are the true Israelites? Is it not those who are of the faith of Abraham? Romans 4:16
- It appears that Peter is contrasting two types of people, those who are the people of God and those who aren't. One is fading away and is falling apart. And yet the other, it endures. It remains steadfast. Why is that? Because He has placed His love upon that group. What does it mean to be God's people? It is to be loved by Him. What does it mean to "exist"? It is to be loved by Him. His love brings life, meaning, permanence, and holiness. Without His love things break down, fade away and disintegrate. Prov. 8:36

- ❖ **Not just any people, a special people**

- None of the other people groups are like this one. God considers it a special people; special because God has uniquely placed His love upon this people.
- Neither Americans, Spaniards, British, Iranians, Chinese nor Filipino are a people like this. Although these new people come from every tribe (Rev 5:9-10) they were not a people before, but have received this special love of God and they are now the people of God.
- Paul describes the same kind of special people in Titus 2:14

- ❖ **Not just special, a royal people (v2:9)**

- Peter says that these people have not only received God's love, not only have they become His special people, they have become a nation of priests (2:9). A kingdom of priests who are blessed with inheritance, rule, peace, and victory.

- Both the prophets and the angels have longed to see this people and wondered what God was doing. (1:10-12)

❖ **Being nobility is sometimes dangerous**

- Often times high nobility are the target of high envy. The things we've been given are not things for us to boast in ourselves but we will be hated for them and we will be called arrogant. Jesus warned us of this, "And you will be hated by all" (Mat. 10:22; Acts 17:6)
- We have nothing in us for which we can boast. Being the people of God was not our doing. It was not because we are the most clever of the lot. We were objects of the wrath of God and were dead in our trespasses and sins just as all the descendants of Adam are. Our only boast is in Christ—His righteousness, God's mercy, God's Grace. The glory from first to last belongs to God alone.

❖ **The allure of other peoples**

- Sometimes we are tempted to look down on our own people and sometimes we desire the things that evil men have. (Prov. 24:1)
- Remember being the people of God brings life. Not being the people of God dissolves life.

❖ **Sometimes it is hard to be a people**

- This chosen people, this royal priesthood is sometimes not made up of the best people. We are going to have personality conflicts. We are going to sin against each other—sometimes unintentionally and sometimes intentionally.
- Don't forget our own blind spots. For every difficult in the church that drives you nuts, there are others who pray for grace to tolerate you. But these difficult brothers/sisters are those whom God loves, to whom God has been merciful. Yes, they are hard to get along with, but they are "our" people.

❖ **Who are your people? The Church is our people...special, royal & loved. Revisit Peter's answers.**

- The people are scattered (1 Peter 1:1)—You are still one people
- The people are persecuted (1 Peter 1:6)—Even though you can't see God, Christ is present in the Body.
- The people struggle with faith (1 Peter 1:13)—A community of faithful people builds us up in our faith.
- The people lose their confidence (1 Peter 2:2-3)—you are an eternal people that will never fade away.

To God be the glory. Amen.

*Preached by Brett Baker  
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## Questions for Younger Saints

### Who are Your People?

### July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10

- 1) In verse 9, Peter uses many words to describe the people of God. See how many you can find in this verse.
- 2) If we are God's special people, is it because we are better than other people?
- 3) The Bible says that the Church is God's special people. Look at Titus 2:14. What does it mean that God's people are "zealous for good works"?