

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE

Houses of Light Church • April 23-24, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 2:9-10

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 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.."

I. OUR IDENTITY

A. These verses are all about our identity as the church of Jesus Christ; Peter takes them from what God said about Israel (**Ex. 19:5-6; Deut. 7:6-8; Hos. 2:23**). Now in Christ we are the People of God, not that we replace Israel in their destiny, but definitely the church has also inherited the blessings that were promised to Israel.

B. And as individuals we see ourselves in an extraordinarily exalted way but that should not make us feel proud but rather humble. May God show us who we are and may that lead us to live in amazement but also accordingly. Here we see several of the most notable claims about the identity of the church in the entire Bible:

1. ***"But you are a chosen race..."*** This phrase is in contrast to what Peter said at the beginning; among the vast group of nations to which they had been dispersed ***"... Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,"*** (v.1:1) **at that time they were a persecuted minority in a vast empire of unbelief and it was easy that they felt without identity or purpose;** Perhaps they thought: 'we are nobody, we do not count for the world or for God' but Peter inspired by the Holy Spirit is telling them: 'You do count for God'. In **v.2:4-5** he spoke of Christ as the Cornerstone: ***"rejected by human beings." We serve a Savior who has been rejected and persecuted by men but before God he is "chosen and precious" just as we are now "chosen and precious" (2:5).*** So we in contrast to the empire and all its mobs that persecute us, we are:

2. ***"Chosen"***: This election is not due to anything special that we had, let's see the passage from which Peter takes this language:

Deut. 7:6-8 'For you are a PEOPLE HOLY to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has CHOSEN you to be a people for his TREASURED POSSESSION, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt."

a) This was referring to Israel and Peter is saying that **these distinctions of Israel are also now enjoyed by those who are in Jesus Christ.**

b) **The Lord wanted us because he wanted it that way; He wanted to love us,** what moved the Lord to choose you? **His love for you.** That happened with Abraham, he lived in Ur of the Chaldeans and the Lord chose him to be a great

nation. So this choice is not based on our merits, our worth or our self-initiated faith.

v.1:3 " Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

c) This new birth was how we became a chosen bloodline or race. Now before God there are only two races: those who are born naturally who come from the dependence of Adam and those who were born a second time, that is, they were born again from the second Adam who is Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:45). So the implications of calling ourselves a chosen race are enormous. All ethnic groups are beautiful, red, yellow, black, brown and white but they are not the essential identity of any Christian anymore; The fact that I am brown, or you are white or African American is something precious, no one should be ashamed of their God-given ethnic origin but they are not the key identity but rather in Christ we are a chosen race by virtue of the new birth.

3. **"royal priesthood"**: This not only means that we serve the King but that we belong to the King's family, **v.2:5 "you also may be built up as living stones in a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood..."** Then we were born into a new race and we have the royal blood in us, we belong to the family of the King of kings (Jn. 1:12).

Rev. 5:10 "and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

4. **"Holy nation"**: If being royalty speaks of dignity, being saints speaks of the purity of our new identity. We were separated to be holy and pure (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2).

5. **"People for His own possession"**: Now we are His possession, so we must recognize the enormous privilege and sense of awe in being the Father's property He chose us and treasures us as His possession, makes us a new race, makes us royalty by belonging to the King, placed us in the office of serving Him, makes us and empowers us to be pure.

v.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."

C. In short, mercy is the reason for election so there is no boasting. The Father chose us to be born again and so we became a new race with a new identity and now we serve in the King's family as priests and the function of that priesthood is to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, which is basically a life of obedience.

II. THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE

v.9b "THAT YOU may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"

A. What is being answered in this part of the verse is why are we chosen? Why are we a new race? why are we royalty why are we called to a consecrated priesthood

to be saints? why do we have a new ethnic identity which is spiritual? why are we an acquired people? why have we received mercy?

- B. In Scripture the Holy Spirit loves to help us think why; what is the reason for being what we are and our purpose in life. So we exist to be those who proclaim the greatness of God through:**
- 1. OUR WORDS: 1 Pet. 3:15** ***"but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."***
 - 2. OUR GOOD DEEDS: 1 Pet. 2:12** ***"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."***
- C. THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE IS TO MAKE HIM KNOWN; not to draw attention to ourselves, but to proclaim the virtues of God. We exist to magnify the one who called us. What we proclaim are the excellences of seeing, tasting and saying excellent things about the Father. Christians should not be known for pointing out mistakes, although we should acknowledge what is not right by naming misconduct; mainly we exist to speak excellent, beautiful things about the One who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.**
- D. "He called you out"** by His great mercy through the new birth to come out of darkness. Jesus stood in front of the tomb of Lazarus, and inside the tomb it smelled bad, there was death, it was dark, there was no light or excellence and Jesus called him and said: "Lazarus, come out!" (**Jn. 11:43**). The call created life and I work it in the wonderful light of Jesus Christ who **is the only one who can bring us from death to life.**
- E. Many times we speak to people of the excellencies of Christ because that is what we were called to do and they see nothing unless God does this work of calling them out of darkness into his marvelous light (**Eph. 1:17- 19**). So we pray that as we proclaim the excellencies that God calls them out of the darkness, as he did for Lydia.**
- Acts. 16:14** ***"One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."***

III. CONCLUSION

- A. So we exist to proclaim the excellencies of a merciful call from a regenerating God. We were formed for his glory; we see God's purpose for us throughout Scripture:**
- Is. 43:20-21** ***"The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed FOR myself that they might declare my praise"***
- Is. 60:21** ***"Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, THAT I might be glorified."***

Jer. 13:11 *"For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the Lord, THAT THEY might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen"*

Eph. 1:4-6 *"even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us[b] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 TO THE praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."*

- B.** We exist to make Him see glorious, to be for the praise of the one who created us and made us be born again. This is not a side issue. Someone might ask, isn't something vain done to him? Isn't it selfish that God can say we were created for his glory? **And the answer is NO, because this call is not heavy, it is in fact the consummation of joy in the most glorious beauty that could ever exist.** When, for example, we see the beauty of creation and enjoy it, **the delight is completed by saying to someone else,** isn't this magnificent? **We are then called to have our pleasures in the excellences of God by telling them to other people. God is glorified when he brings us to our greatest pleasure. This is what will make us eternally happy, contemplating him speaking and singing about him.**

IV. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you feel secure in your God-given identity? Explain**
- 2. To what extent are you fulfilling the purpose of your existence as this passage does not express?**
- 3. What hinders you to fulfill it?**
- 4. What helps you to fulfill the purpose of your existence?**

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our MEN'S RETREAT is already this weekend April 29 and 30. You can register at the bookstore or at www.housesoflight.org**
- Our WOMEN'S CONFERENCE is this May 27 (English) and 28 (Bilingual). You can register at the bookstore or on the website**
- If you are a new member of the church we invite you to fill out your Connection Card to keep you informed about our church, events and ministries.**