

Live out your identity in Christ

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'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.'

1 PETER 2:9-12

We are supposed to be different from the world. God has set you apart for himself for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel to a lost world. As the old hymn, "Amazing Grace" puts it, "was blind, but now I see." Before Christ, we were blind, not a people, we were without mercy, and bound to our sins. Now, as believers, we are no longer bound to the evil of sin and death! Rather, we are chosen by God! Look at how God describes you: chosen, royal priesthood, holy, his possession, people of God, and ones who have received mercy.

Praise the Lord for the new identities that we have in him. As a result of what he has done for us, we are to live excellently among the world, so we can only be slandered for being different. We never should give a reason to be slandered for evil. Rather, the world should always be able to speak of our good deeds even though they may not understand or agree with us in our faith. Who knows, through your good deeds and faithfulness to share the gospel, God may just use that to bring others to the same saving faith that changed you.

- Memorize 1 Peter 2:9 today, and share it with your family at dinner.
- How can you be more intentional about living as a blessing to the world, even if those around you don't agree with your faith?