

God's Own Special People

1 Peter 2:9-10

Introduction:

- A. Christians are often given to one of two extreme attitudes about who they are.
 - 1. Some manifest a "superiority complex" (cf. Rom. 12:3)
 - 2. Some manifest an "inferiority complex"
 - a. Constantly apologizing for having to be different.
 - b. Constantly minimizing their differences from "main stream" society.
- B. Christians, of all people, have no reason for either complex.
 - 1. No reason to feel superior to anyone – just sinners saved by grace.
 - 2. No reason to feel inferior – because of who we are in Christ.
 - 3. Four terms first used of Jews by God that show that Christians are special:

Discussion:

- I. We Are a "Chosen Generation" or "Elect Race" (ASV)**
 - A. Chosen according to God's eternal purpose (2 Tim. 1:9-10; Eph. 3:8-10)
 - B. Chosen generation is the generation in Christ (cf. 2 Tim. 1:9; Gal. 3:26,27)
 - C. Chosen by the gospel (Rom. 1:16; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)
- II. We Are a "Royal Priesthood"**
 - A. "Royal" because of our relationship to the King.
 - B. "Priesthood" to offer spiritual sacrifices (v. 5)
 - 1. "Acceptable to God" - not just any sacrifice (cf. John 4:24; Matt. 15:9)
 - 2. Need no earthly priest – we are own priesthood on earth.
- III. We Are a "Holy Nation"**
 - A. One nation under Christ..
 - 1. With heavenly citizenship (cf. Phil. 3:20)
 - 2. Are the kingdom of God (Col. 1:13)
 - 3. Are made "to be a kingdom, to be priests" (Rev. 1:6 ASV) – A kingdom of priests (cf. Ex. 19:6)
 - B. A Holy Nation – set apart for special purposes.
 - 1. Unique in the world (Phil 2:15)
 - 2. Unique in relationship and conduct.
 - C. When it ceases to be unique, like Israel, it ceases to be holy.
- IV. We Are a "Peculiar People" or "His own special people" (NKJ)**
 - A. "Peculiar" not in sense of weird, but in sense of uniquely one's own.
 - 1. Purchased by the His blood (Acts 20:28)
 - 2. Were not a people, now a people belonging to God (v. 20)
 - B. A special people with special responsibilities.
 - 1. To show forth the praises of Him that called us.
 - 2. Compare Duet. 7:1-11.

Conclusion:

- A. Christian have no reason to be boastful or self-righteous.
- B. Nor do they have cause for an "inferiority complex"
- C. God's special people are those who are obedient believers (v. 7)