

17. What does Peter say these slaves/servants were to do as people who belonged to God? (v18-21)

18. What motivation does Peter give the slaves/servants and what is the goal of their conduct?

19. If all we knew of Christ was what is said in verse 21-25 what are we told about what He did, how He did it for you, and what that means for you?

Pray

Pray for “human institutions” - that is our government, the Queen, and indeed (for time being) the EU bodies. Pray for a proper respect for the God-given nature of government and that those who govern would fulfil their calling impartially, justly and honesty.

Pray for those who find difficulties in the workplace in being obedient to God.

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1 Peter

Week 5 : God’s Own Possession

1 Peter 2.9-25

There is an Old Testament background to some of what Peter writes in these verses but we are concentrating on how they fit in with what we have already seen in the letter and how that should shape our lives.

Read 1 Peter 2.9-11

1. If you had to describe your background or identity on a form what would you put? For example, if it applies to you, would you say you are “British” or “English”?

2. In what four ways are those who believe (2.7) described in the first half of verse 9.

We already looked at one of these, “royal priesthood” in the previous study.

Elect offspring

3. Where the ESV has “chosen race” (v9) the original Greek reads *genos eklekton* - *genos* means offspring and *eklektos* means elect. The root idea of *genos* can be found in words like Genesis and generate. Where and how have we already seen this idea in chapters 1 and 2 (look for the word ‘born’)? Whose offspring are we?

4. If you are born again (re-generate) you are part of a new family (race in the ESV). How important was the idea of being part of a new family when you came to faith? Do we perhaps concentrate too much on the individual consequences of conversion?

5. The word elect literally means “called out”. In verse 9 what are we “called out” to do? How should we be doing this?

6. Look back to 1.1, in addition to elect what word did Peter use to describe believers? In 2.11 what does this mean for how we should live in the world and why do you think this is?

A Holy Nation

Read 1 Peter 2.10-15

The word translated ‘nation’ in verse 9 is ‘ethnos’ whilst ‘Gentiles’ in verse 12 are ‘ethnesin’, that is ‘nations’. From a Israelite perspective they were ‘the nation’ whilst ‘the nations’ (Gentiles) was everyone else. You can no doubt spot words we use that derive from ethnos.

7. If believers are a Holy Nation, who is our King or Emperor?

8. How does Peter say we should we behave as citizens of this nation? What do you think he means (verse 12)?

9. What does Peter see as the goal of our conduct in verse 12, and do you think it works?

10. Israel for a time had been a sovereign nation state (though not for centuries before Christ). But in Christ we belong to a different to a holy nation, a kingdom that is not of this world (Jn 18.36). How should we therefore conduct ourselves towards the nations of this world and their leaders and why? (verse 13-15)

11. What does Peter see as the goal of our conduct in verses 13-15, and do you think it works?

12. We are to be obedient to God, but how are we seeing in these verses that our conduct has an objective?

God’s Own People

Read 1 Peter 2.16-20

13. Peter says in verse 16 that we are to live as people who are free. How can we be free if we belong to God (v9 - ‘a people for God’s own possession’)?

14. Since we are God’s possession and therefore free, how are we to use our freedom (v16-17)?

15. How does this freedom differ from what ‘freedom fighters’ and those who rebel against governments normally want?

16. Some of the early believers were servants or slaves . How could they be God’s possession if they belonged to someone else? How does this relate to what we saw above in questions 10 and 11.