**1 Peter: God’s Holy & Beloved People Purposed to Proclaim Him**

*1 Peter 2:9d-f*

**Context**

**1 Peter 2:9**—*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*

**The Believer’s Calling**

1. **You are a holy nation**

**1 Peter 2:9c**—*But you are… a holy nation*

**1 Exodus 19:5-6***—Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession*

*among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;****6****and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”*

1. Believers are separated to Christ as a holy nation
   * + 1. Nation (ethnos)—a people as an ethnic group

**Luke 7:5***—…**for he [Centurion] loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue.*

**Luke 23:2***—And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.”*

**Revelation 5:9***—And they \*sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

* + - 1. Holy (hagios)—separate or set apart
         1. A common designation for Israel
         2. They were the covenant people of God as a holy nation

**Leviticus 19:1-2***—Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:* ***2****“Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.*

**20:26***—Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.*

**Isaiah 62:12***—And they will call them, “The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord”; And you will be called, “Sought out, a city not forsaken.”*

* + - * 1. They forfeited their position

**Deuteronomy 4:25-27***—“When you become the father of children and children’s children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the Lord your God so as to provoke Him to anger,****26****I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.****27****The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord drives you.*

**Romans 11:17,20**—*But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree…* ***20****Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear*

* + - * 1. A common designation for Israel
        2. The nation will return in faith to the Messiah

**Ezekiel 36:25-31***—Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.****26****Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.****27****I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.****28****You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.****29****Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you.****30****I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.****31****Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.*

**Romans 11:24, 26***—For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?...* ***26****and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”*

1. God has set aside a remnant
   1. For His glory
   2. For a relationship with the living God
   3. For service to Him

**Romans 6:4-6***—Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.****5****For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,****6****knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;****7****for he who has died is freed from sin.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17***—Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

**Hebrews 2:11***—For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren* ***12****saying, “I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise.”*

**Acts 15:7-9***—After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.****8****And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;****9****and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.*

1. He has cleaned us from sin
2. Through the means of sanctification
   1. Positional Sanctification (Justification)

**1 Corinthians 1:30***—**But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption*

**Acts 20:32***—And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

**Acts 26:18***—…to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’*

* 1. Practical Sanctification (Progressive Sanctification)

**Romans 6:4***—Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

**Romans 8:1-2***—Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.****2****For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

**Ephesians 4:20-24***—But you did not learn Christ in this way,****21****if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,****22****that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,****23****and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,****24****and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

**Philippians 2:12-13***—So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;****13****for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5***—For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;****4****that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,****5****not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;*

**2 Corinthians 3:18***—But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

* 1. Ultimate Sanctification (Glorification)

**Romans 8:30***—and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

1. **You are a people for God’s possession**

**1 Peter 2:9d**—*…a people for God’s own possession*

1. God’s possession

**Exodus 19:5**—*Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine*

* + - 1. *Possession* (peripoiēsis)—means to purchase; acquire for a price; acquisition (the act or the thing); obtain(-ing), peculiar, purchased, possession, saving.[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Ephesians 1:14**—*who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

* + - 1. We were purchased at great price—the ultimate price

**1:18-19***—knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,****19****but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

**Acts 20:28***—Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchasedwith His own blood.*

**Titus 2:13-14***—looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,****14****who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

**Revelation 5:9***—And they \*sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

* + - 1. As such, we are not your own

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**—*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?****20****For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

**I am not my own** by Skye Peterson

[Verse 2]

My body is a temple of the living God  
I'll worship in this house that His blood has bought  
As I bear His image, O may I not profane  
The holiness I hold in this earthly frame  
[Chorus]  
I belong to the Lord  
O, I am not my own  
I belong to the Lord  
I am not my own  
I will honor Him, for this I know:  
I belong to the Lord  
I am not my own

1. **Purpose: so that you may proclaim Him**

**1 Peter 2:9e**—*…so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him*

1. The greatest privilege we have as believers is to declare the gospel message
   1. The reason for our salvation is to declare His praise
   2. That is a natural expression of thankful heart
2. *Proclaim*—to tell out or forth, to declare abroad, divulge, publish, to make known by praising or proclaiming, to celebrate[[2]](#footnote-3)

*The apostle has in mind here the beauties and perfections of God as they are made known to men.[[3]](#footnote-4)*

* 1. We publicize Christ
  2. We make known what it otherwise not know
  3. The message we proclaim is Good News

1. *Excellencies*—any excellence of a person (in body or mind) or of a thing, an eminent endowment, property or quality[[4]](#footnote-5)
   1. We declare who He is and what He has done

**Acts 1:8***—but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*

**Acts 2:22***—“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know”*

**4:20***—for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.*

**Revelation 15:3***—And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!”*

* 1. **Point to ponder:** To think that the Holy Righteous One chooses to use broken sinners to declare the most glorious message ever so as to bring other undeserving sinners to Himself is a privilege way beyond our station

**1 Timothy 1:12-17**—*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,****13****even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;****14****and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.****15****It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.****16****Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.****17****Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

\*What else would Paul end with other than a doxology?

1. **You are called from darkness to light**

**1 Peter 2:9f**—*…who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

1. *Darkness—(*metaphorically) of ignorance respecting divine things and human duties, and the accompanying ungodliness and immorality, together with their consequent misery in hell[[5]](#footnote-6)
   1. Intellectual darkness
      1. Ignorance on the truth
      2. Eyes are blinded
      3. Inability to see and know the truth

**1 Corinthians 4:1-4***—Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart,****2****but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.****3****And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,****4****in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

* 1. Moral darkness
     1. They do have the ability to do what is right/righteous in the sight of God
     2. Because of their ignorance, they are blinded and trapped in the kingdom of darkness by the evil one
     3. They lack a moral compass

**Ephesians 2:1-2**—*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,****2****in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

**2 Timothy 2:25-26**—…*with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,****26****and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

* + 1. They hate the truth and love the darkness

**John 3:19-21***—This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.****20****For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.****21****But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”*

1. *God called you out of darkness*
   1. *Called (*kaleō*)—*often used in scripture indicating a call unto salvation (effectual call)

**1:15***—but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;*

**2:21***—For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,*

**5:10***—After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*

**Romans 1:6-7***—among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;* ***7****to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Jude 1:1**—*Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:****2****May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.*

* 1. We are called out of darkness (the negative to the positive; from...to…)

1. Into His marvelous light

**Colossians 1:13**—*For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son*

* 1. To counter the intellectual and moral darkness, He makes us new
  2. Regeneration through the Spirit
     1. He illuminates our minds—we have the ability to discern the truth (what we think, what we desire, our thoughts/ passions/wants)

**Psalm 119:105***—Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*

**Proverbs 4:23***—Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.*

* + 1. He changes our souls—so we can do the things He commands of us (what we do, act, and interact)

**1 Corinthians 2:15-16***—But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.****16****For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

**Point**: we have received both the light of God’s truth (knowledge) and we have receive righteous desires to obey it, neither of which we had prior to coming to Him[[6]](#footnote-7)

**Conclusion**

Points to ponder and apply:

* + 1. Consider long and hard your calling—*chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession*

“All four nouns: ‘race, priesthood, nation, people,’ are collectives, each has its own connotation, all of them include the whole *Una Sancta\**, the communion of saints.”[[7]](#footnote-8)

* + 1. As a result: *proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

“It would be a mistake to suppose that we can be all that Peter states and at the same time sit down quietly and contemplate our honor and our excellence.”[[8]](#footnote-9)

Amen and amen!

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, The Believer’s Privileges, Part 6: Separation, Possession, Illumination…, 1 Peter 2:9b-10, Feb 19, 1989, [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Strong’s G4046 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strong’s G1804 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. DeHaan, 53. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Strong’s G703 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G4655 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. MacArthur, 131 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Lenski, 102. \*Una sancta is a Latin phrase that translates to "one holy". It is a part of the Nicene Creed and is often used to refer to the Church [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)