

1 Peter - Hope & Holiness: The Way of Discipleship



Introduction - 1:13-19

1 Peter was written by the Apostle Peter during a time of Christian persecution. It is addressed to the churches during the first century in what we call Asia Minor.



Slander and gossip about immorality, cannibalism, and atrocity was spread about the Early Christians that caused them to be persecuted by the public and the state. It is in this context that Peter writes to the church under persecution.

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. **14** As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16** for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. **18** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Identity
Holiness
Hope

Identity: Foreigners & Exiles with a New Home - 2:9-10



Who Are You?

How do you identify Yourself?

To what nation or people are you identified?

Family, club, profession, race, gender?

With whom do you identify?

9 But you are a **chosen people**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, God's **special possession**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are **the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Chosen People - "Chosen genos" generation, race, people.

Royal Priesthood

Holy Nation - ethnos, race, nation,

God's Special Possession

People of God

Received Mercy

To be Messengers of Praise.

From Darkness to Light.

Holiness: Conformity vs. Calling - 2:11-12



11 Dear friends, I urge you, as **foreigners** and **exiles**, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.



We all want to belong.

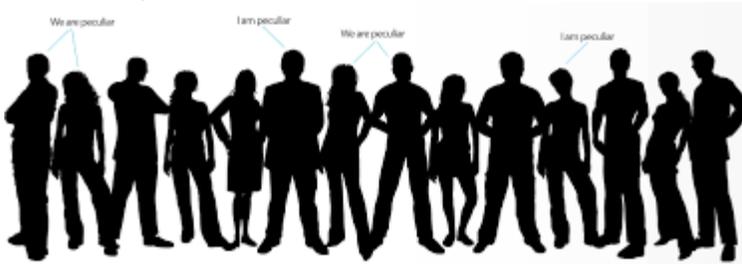
But the object of our belonging is essential.

Cliques, clubs, gangs, cults, denominations, sects, professions, guilds, religious orders, race, sexual orientation, gender, political parties...

That sense of belonging creates community but are we aware of the implications, philosophies and theologies?

Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Not race, not gender, not social position.

Christ followers.

Disciples.

This is about allegiance & identity.

The Christian identity unites a group of disparate individuals and makes them a new people.

One translation of 1 Peter 2:9 calls us "A Peculiar People"

God's people are to carry one identity above all others.

This is not individualistic but corporate.

You have been set apart.

Therefore Foreigners and Exiles.

In the World but not of it.

We are Holy - Set Apart.

Defining Holiness:

Eg. Communion Cup - not decoration, not for anything else.

It may used to have been for something else but we made it holy.

This Cross - firewood, building stud, tree house.

But it has been made holy, used to represent the suffering and love of Christ.

How are we Holy/Different?

1. Attitudes - Your Own Soul - The purgation of evil desires, transformation - Internal.
2. Actions - good deeds not for salvation but because of it - you show the mercy you were given

Blameless before others.

3. Amity - harmony, friendship, kindness, humility - Showing respect to all - God, believers, even the emperor.

By the Grace of God and the Work of the Holy Spirit.

The Litmus Test: Are the people around you blessed by your presence?

[You stand apart.

You may be considered a little weird.

Eg. Learning to return what you were overpaid.

Everyone is doing it!

Scraping someone's car. Leaving a note.

Insurance person impressed. "No one does this."

Because I follow Jesus.

"Do unto others what you would have them do to you."

"Even the emperor."

The recipients of 1 Peter were persecuted by Emperor Domitian.

Peter was executed by Nero, the emperor.

Nero burned Christians in his garden.

Jesus' Teaching

Love your enemies.

Bless those who curse you and persecute you because of me. - Sermon on the Mount

I have enough trouble loving those close to me.

And yet the countless stories of those who turn to God because of the suffering of his people.

Suffering not because they are evil and do wrong, but for good.]

Hope - 5:6-10



6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. **7** Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. **11** To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul is known as the Apostle of Faith
John is known as the apostle of Love
Peter is the Apostle of Hope

What does Christ give us to be able to live this life, even under suffering?
What is the difference between being a sojourner/pilgrim/foreigner/exile
and being a settler/citizen?
How does this affect the way we live?
Are you a settler or a sojourner?

This is the tension of being God's people.
Heaven is not our goal or our home.
God is.
And he is on the move.