

## Community Group Discussion Questions

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### “The Attraction of the Church”

#### 1 Peter 2:9-10

**Sermon Series Title:** “The Church of God”

**Sermon Series Summary:** The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We’re going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

**Passage Setting:** 1 Peter is written by the apostle Peter. He is the one who struggled with his impulsive behavior in the Gospels and denied Jesus 3 times. But after the resurrection, he became the spokesperson for the church in the beginning of Acts. This letter is written to persecuted Christians with a Jewish background. But the lessons from this book are not to be applied ethnically but spiritually for all Christians.

**Summary:** Peter in our passage blends Exodus 19 (deliverance from Egypt) and Isaiah 43 (deliverance from Babylon) to show us that we are the new Israel, God’s chosen people, delivered by the finished work of Christ. We are a new humanity, a royal priesthood, and proclaimers of the gospel.

**Central Truth:** “God has called us His.”

**Sermon Points:**

1. Our Status
2. Our Summon
3. Our Story

**Opening Question**

1. How would you describe your new identity in Christ?

*(Answers may vary.)*

***In our very short passage today, we’re going to look at what Peter says about who we are and the new identity we have in Christ.***

***Read 1 Peter 2:9-10***

## Community Group Discussion Questions

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2. Which aspect of our new calling sticks out to you?

*(Chosen- We are elected from eternity past, not based on anything we've done but all based on God's grace.*

*Race- We are a new humanity. Christ has resurrected our hearts and has made us new.*

*Royal- We are seated with Christ and belong to Him as our King.*

*Priesthood- We are priests in this world, offering ourselves and ministering to others and to sin.*

*Holy- We are set apart as His.*

*Nation- We are citizens first of His kingdom more than any earthly kingdom.*

*People for His own possession- We are His.*

*Proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light- We proclaim Christ and the gospel. Our proclamation leads to His glory. We were blind and dead in the darkness of our sin.*

*His people who have received mercy- Like the story of Hosea, we were the unfaithful bride in our sin who committed adultery over and over again with our idols. We were slaves to our sin, and yet Christ has bought us with His blood, so we can receive His mercy and be His people.)*

3. What does it mean for us to be priests in Christ?

*(As part of the Reformed camp, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. This means that we don't need clergy or pastors or officers to mediate between us and God. We can go to God directly and be priests ourselves as we are united to Jesus.*

*Like in the Old Testament, we as priests are to offer sacrifices. These sacrifices include our lives of worship. Also, we represent God to the world. Just like our passage, we proclaim the gospel to the world. Lastly, we minister to sin. We counsel one another. We intercede for one another.)*

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***Final Thoughts:*** *Our new identity in our passage is rooted in Christ. Jesus is the Chosen One destined to die, so we can be His chosen race. He died to resurrect us into a new humanity. Jesus is the King of Kings who died as a criminal to make us into kings. He is the Most High Priest who offered Himself as the ultimate Sacrifice so we can be a royal priesthood. He was set apart in His death, so we can be set apart as His holy nation. He is the Only Begotten Son who was orphaned on the cross, so we can be a people for God's possession. How do we live out our new identity? It's by going to Jesus time and time again.*