

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.

"We are in our "The Church of God" sermon series, and we see that we are defined not by who we are but whose we are as the Church."

Call: Luke 1:70-73

Text: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Title: "The Attraction of the Church"

Next Week's Call: Luke 1:74-75

Next Week's Text: 1 Peter 2:6-8

Next Week's Title: "Church as Building"

Future Calls: Luke 1:78-79; Luke 2:13-14, 29-32; Revelation 5:6-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Revelation 15:3, 4; Revelation 21:1-4, 5-7, 22-23

Future Titles: "Church as City" (Ephesians 2:19-22), "Church as Body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-31), "Church as Family" (John 1:12-13), "Church as Bride" (Ephesians 5:22-33), "The Eternity of the Church" (Revelation 21:1-7)

Fallen Condition Focus: We don't know or live out our identity in Christ.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ was crucified as God's enemy as our substitute, so we can receive our blessed identity..

Central Truth: "God has called us His."

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.

Reflective Questions:

1. Which aspect of our new calling sticks out to you?
2. What does it mean for us to be priests in Christ?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook- Identity
- B. Transition- OT references in Isaiah
- C. Central Truth
- D. Points

II. Our Status (v. 9a)

- A. But you- unlike people who are stumbled by Jesus, we trust in Him as our Savior.
- B. Reference to Exodus 19:5-6 (But you, royal priesthood, holy nation) and Isaiah 43:20-21 (chosen race, proclaim God's excellencies)
 1. Exodus 19- redemption after 400 years of slavery in Egypt defines them as God's nation
 2. Isaiah 43- redemption after Babylonian exile that will define them as God's chosen people
 3. Both OT identities fulfilled in the church through Christ's redemption
 4. We are the new Israel.
- C. Chosen race
 1. Elected not by works but by grace from eternity past
 2. Race- many races now becoming one race- new humanity
- D. Royal priesthood
 1. Royal- we belong to the king; some say we are kings ourselves (seated at the right hand of Christ in the heavenlies- Ephesians 2:6)
 2. Priests- will talk about this more in second point
- E. A holy nation
 1. Holy- not mean perfectly pure, but set apart
 2. Nation- first citizens of His kingdom more than any other kingdom
 3. Imagine the joy for Israel being called a holy nation after years of slavery
 4. Charged with treason and "hatred against mankind"
 1. Polytheistic empire- no problem with Jesus; problem saying that Jesus is the only way
- F. A people for his own possession
 1. We are God's.
 1. Hoarder ways

III. Our Summon (v. 9b)

- A. Priesthood of all believers (Reformed doctrine)
 - 1. We don't need priests to be mediators for us (unlike Catholics). We are united to Jesus and have free access to God.
 - 2. We offer up sacrifices of our worship.
 - 3. We share the grace of God with non-believers and one another.
 - 4. We minister to sin.
 - 5. We pray and intercede for others.
- B. Proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light
 - 1. Excellences- Moral excellence when describing people; manifest glory when describing God
 - 2. Called out of the darkness of death and sin into the light of His grace and life- deliverance

IV. Our Story (v. 10)

- A. Once you were not a people but now you are God's people; once not have received mercy but receive mercy now
- B. Story of Hosea and Gomer
 - 1. Gomer is a harlot that Hosea is called to love and marry.
 - 2. She continues to live like a harlot even though she is married. She has children with other men, named "No Mercy" and "Not My People."
 - 3. In her unfaithfulness, she sells herself as a slave and Hosea purchases her and still loves her.
 - 4. This is a picture of unfaithful Israel and our loving/redeeming God.
 - 5. In the book, there is a promise that one day, Israel will be made God's people and will receive mercy (Hosea 2:23).
- C. Peter is saying that this is our story now.
 - 1. We were unfaithful in our sin, and yet it is God who showed mercy upon us and called us your people.
 - 2. Jesus purchased us while we were slaves in our sin by His blood shed for our faithlessness.
- D. Jesus is the Chosen One, destined to die, so we can be His chosen race. He died to resurrect us into a new humanity.
- E. He is the King of Kings who died as a criminal to make us into kings... to have us sit at His right hand.
- F. He is the Most High Priest who offered Himself as the ultimate Sacrifice so we can be a royal priesthood.
- G. He was set apart in His death, so we can be set apart as His holy nation.

H. He is God's only begotten Son who was orphaned on the cross, so we can be a people for his own possession.