



**Series Title:** “Exiles: A Study of the First Letter of Peter”  
**Message Title:** “Chosen Exiles: a Peculiar People”

**Date:** February 13, 2022  
**Teaching:** Mark Skinner

### Reference: 1 Peter 2:9-12

Here are some key points from the passage:

- Peter writes to followers of Jesus—the “elect exiles” in chapter 1, verse 1, to explain our *identity, our purpose, and calling*.
- In doing so, he addresses three of the Big Questions asked by humankind:
  - who am I? (vv. 9-10)
  - why am I here? (vv. 9-10, 12)
  - how should I live? (vv. 11-12)
- The answers are central to our worldview; how we respond to them in our daily lives speaks to the world in which we are exiles.
- While this world is not our home, we are placed here by God’s choice to show the world who he is—to “proclaim his excellencies.”

### Message Notes:

Humankind has always been in search of answers to the Big Questions of life, questions such as, “Who am I?” “Why am I here?” “How should I live?” We, as exiles in a world that does not want us here, need to understand God’s responses to those questions.

#### Who am I?

In contrast to those who reject the cornerstone of God’s spiritual house, who disobey the Word of God and are destined for destruction, Peter begins by saying, “But you are...”

In Christ we are a *chosen people*. God, in his sovereignty and grace, has chosen us as his own. That choosing is not due to any merit, abilities or achievements of our own.

In Christ we are a *royal priesthood*. By the sacrificial death, bodily resurrection and ascension of Jesus, we have been given the privilege to enter into the presence of God and

the responsibility to be priests of God to one another.

In Christ we are a *holy nation*. We are set apart for God even as we inhabit a foreign land that does not want us here. Though we are separate from this world, we are not isolated from it, for this world needs our influence. Our citizenship, however, is in heaven; our allegiance is to Christ and his kingdom.

In Christ we are a *people for God’s own possession*. God has purchased us with the blood of his own Son, and has preserved us for himself. We do not belong to ourselves; we belong to Almighty God.

In Christ we are *God’s people who have received his mercy*. God loved us before we ever loved him. Though we rejected him, he extended his mercy to us and made us alive in Christ.

In Christ we are chosen, royal, priests, holy, his own possession, a people who have received his mercy.

#### Why am I here?

Humans sense that there is more than biological existence. Peter gives us two answers to this question.

The elect exiles in Christ are to proclaim (declare, announce) the “excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light” (v. 10). We are to display his goodness in the way we live, even as aliens and sojourners in this world.

#### How should I live?

The elect exiles (“those who live in a place that is not their home”) are exhorted to live as those whose citizenship and allegiance are elsewhere. The values and beliefs we hold are offensive to the world around us. We are to be “set apart” through our holy living.

- A worldview is the set of ideas and assumptions we hold about how the world works and our place in it. What are some of the ideas and assumptions you use to explain “life, existence, and everything” (*Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*)?
- How do you feel when you read Peter’s words in verse 9?
  - chosen?
  - a royal priest?
  - a citizen of a holy nation?
  - belonging to God?
  - a recipient of his mercy?
- Are any of these hard for you to accept? Why?
- Have you ever written a personal “mission statement?” What was in it?
- What are the “excellencies” of God?
- How can you “proclaim” those qualities?
- What images does the term “holy living” conjure up to you?
- What should motivate us to live holy lives?
- How what does holiness look like in your own life?

## My Notes and Questions