

## BUMC Weekly Bible and Sermon Study

**Sermon:** “Royalty” (from the “We ARE” sermon series)

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:1-10 (The Living Stone and a Chosen People)

### Key take-aways from the Scripture

- At the end of chapter one of 1 Peter, there is a discussion as to how we are born anew through the living and enduring Word of God. In this section of 1 Peter, we see a continuation of this with the call to “Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.”
- In vv.2-3, we read of our need to “long for spiritual milk, so that you may grow into salvation-if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” This reinforces the earlier metaphors of being born again and taking on the role of “spiritual children” who need spiritual nourishment in God’s Word.
- In vv. 4-8, Peter is describing the church as a “spiritual house” constructed of “living stones.” This draws upon the imagery we see in Psalms 118:22, describing that the community of believers may be rejected by the world, however, they are precious in God’s sight.
- In verse 9, we read: “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.” These metaphors are seen throughout the Old Testament to highlight that the Israelites are a covenant people who have a special relationship with God. Here, Peter is employing these terms to describe the Christian church. Through Christ, the church is now a *chosen people*, a *royal priesthood*, a *holy nation*, *God’s special possession* and a *people of God*. (See Deuteronomy 10:15; 14:2; Psalms 33:12; Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 43:20-21).
- The term “chosen people” is key here and comes from the Greek word *genos*, which means kindred, family or offspring. In this context, it is referring to new “family” or “kindred” in Christ. Similar language is used in Deuteronomy 7:6, “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.”
- In verse 10, we read: “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.” Compare this with Hosea 1:9; 2:23.

### Key take-aways from the Sermon

- This is the beginning of a new series called, “We ARE.” The idea for this series comes from a research study on the giving landscape from George Barna. 77% of people surveyed gave because of *WHO THEY ARE!* This raises questions on identity. Who are we as Christians made in the image of God?
- In the text this morning, we are told we are *royalty* (1 Peter 2:9).
- Our core identity as followers of Christ is *chosen*. We are a chosen people. We are first and foremost sons and daughters of God.
- One way we determine our identity is to think about who and what is lord of your life. What preoccupies your heart?
- If I confess Jesus as Lord, then we are a part of a royal priesthood. In the text today, the priesthood is expanded from Jews to also Gentiles. In Christ, all the other labels we give each other in life go out the window!
- We are close to Reformation Day, in which we celebrate Martin Luther’s 95 theses. This was a protest against the abuses from the Roman Catholic Church, in particular the practice of indulgences. This is where loved ones can pay the church to help get loved ones that have passed on out of purgatory. Another issue was that the religious hierarchy would not translate the Bible for the masses to read (from Latin to German).
  - He also believed in the priesthood of ALL believers (based upon today’s verse). While we need clergy, it is not their job to do *all* of the ministry. The ministry is to equip the body to engage with the mission of the church. We are a kingdom of priests, a part of a royal priesthood. All of us as Christians.
- When we get confused about our true identity, we get confused about our calling.
- “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, **so that** you may **proclaim** the *mighty acts* of **Him** who *called you* out of *darkness* into His marvelous *light*.” – 1 Peter 2:9
  - When you know who you are, you know what to do. Because you are a priest, you are necessarily a **witness**. Our role as a witness is to share what God has done in our lives so that others may know the light.
- Our purpose as a priesthood is to be a witness to make our lives a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God because this is who we are.
- Remember: When you know who you are, you know what to do. When you find your *why* you will find your *way*.

**Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion**

- What were your key take-aways from the sermon? How can you apply this to your everyday life?
- Reflect on your identity as a follower of Jesus Christ. What does this mean for you?
- Who and what is “lord” of your life? What is it that preoccupies your heart?
- What does it mean for us as Christians to be chosen by God? How should we internalize this and live our lives to reflect this?
- What are some characteristics that mark us as a “chosen people”?
- How does the term “chosen people” differ in the Old Testament, compared to the New Testament?



**BRENTWOOD**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES

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