

A sunset scene over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright lens flare that extends vertically through the center of the image. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue. The water in the foreground is dark, with some ripples and a reflection of the sun's light.

The Savior's Special People

I Pt. 2:4 - 25

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- It is a constant theme of Scripture that the people of God are unique, separate & honored.
- The the Old Testament era, the Lord took a small & weak people unto himself and made that nation an honored and great entity.

At the time of the writing of I Peter,
the scattered, weak and despised
members of the early Church need
to remember that the Lord was
present & active with them.

Within the text, today's Christian must remember that though the world may despise us, though we are pilgrims in a hostile land which is not our home, we have a unique relationship with Christ which gives hope and courage.

Christians are "a chosen people,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
a people belonging to God."

Because we are a special people, we must live so
as to "declare the praises of him who called us
out of darkness and into his glorious light."

Our Unique Relationship with Christ

1 Pt 2:4 – 5, “Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God & precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,
*"Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect,
precious & he who believes on Him will by no means
be put to shame."* ⁷ Therefore, to you who believe,
He is precious; but to those who are disobedient,
*"The stone which the builders rejected Has become
the chief cornerstone,"* ⁸ and *"A stone of stumbling
And a rock of offense."* They stumble,
being disobedient to the word, to which
they also were appointed.

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

I. Our Responsibility to the World

I Pt. 2:11 - 12, "Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners & pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

As Christians we must consider our influence upon others around us.



Are we a bridge that brings people closer to God, or are we a barrier that keeps people from God?

II. Our Responsibility to the State

I Pt. 2:13 - 17, "Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,¹⁴ or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good.

¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men -- ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. ¹⁷ Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."

The New Testament has a lot to say about our loyalty to civil governments.

Rms. 13:1, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."



III. Our Responsibility to Earthly Masters

I Pt. 2:18 - 25, "Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good & gentle, but also to the harsh.

¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good & suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "*Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth*";

²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. ²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Peter calls for Christians to be faithful to their Masters.

Many of the first century Christians were Slaves. Because Christians were told that they were free, they thought that they had no reason to still be a slave to their Masters.

They understood their Spiritual Freedom, to include their Physical & Civil Freedom

Paul gives the same advise in

Eph. 6:5 - 8, "Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free."

Christianity will always be misunderstood by the world.

It will view our meekness as weakness.

It will view our submission as cowardice.

It will view our Spirituality as Self-Righteousness.

Unless Christians are seeking to please God and not man, we can & will become discouraged by the world's rejection.