

We the Church:
Peculiar People

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

Question: Who is the strangest person you know? Why?

Question: In what situations would you rather fit in, or be peculiar? Why?

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT)

I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt.

Exodus 6:7 (NLT)

Question: When have you felt strongly you 'belonged' in a group of people? What was that like?

Question: When was a time you felt like an outsider, like you didn't belong? Describe that.

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

*"Once you had no identity as a people;
now you are God's people.
Once you received no mercy;
now you have received God's mercy."*

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NLT)

Question: When did you start to take on the Identity of one of Gods chosen people? Have you yet? Why or Why not?

Question: Where do you see people who "*have no Identity as a people*"? What do people struggle with who struggle with their Identity?

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity - all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

**The church is not a movie theatre, here for entertainment.
We are learning people.**

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching...

Question: How do you engage in growing in your learning about Following Jesus?

**The church is not a store, where I choose what I want.
We are worshipping people.**

...and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Question: How can you give up your preferences to join in worship with others? What are the challenges of that? What are the benefits?

**The church is not a restaurant, where someone serves me.
We are serving people.**

...And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

Question: Where are you engaged in serving others in the church? Outside the church? How can your group do this together?

**The church is not a gas station, where I get a fill up.
We are missional people.**

...And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Question: Who do you have burden to reach for Christ right now. What are you doing about that. (Pray for those people.)