

## I Peter 2:9-10

### I. You have a new identity from God. (9)

These two verses further explain the “honor” of v. 7a. vv.7b-8 spoke of the result of the choice for the unbelievers, now Peter elaborates on the other side of the coin for believers.

“The words [but you]...introduce a series of honorific titles spelling out the [honor] of those who believe...Vv 9-10 unfold both the present and future aspects of this “honor”....All four of these titles of honor appear to be adaptations of titles from either Exod 19:6 or Isa43:20-21. With the use of these titles, Peter makes explicit his basis for consistently addressing his Gentile Christian readers as if they were Jews.” WBC. p. 107.

#### 1. Continuity and discontinuity

#### 2. Honor comes with responsibility.

### A. Who you are in Christ. (9a)

#### 1. A Chosen Race-cf. 1:2, Is 43:20-21, Dt 10:14-15, 7:6

“Within I Peter, the use of [chosen] here for the Christian community as a whole is a corollary of its use for Christ the “living stone” in vv 4 and 6, recalling as well the [chosen] of Peter’s initial address to his readers as individuals in 1:1.” WBC. p. 108.

#### 2. A Royal Priesthood-cf. Ex 19:6, Is 61:6, Rev 1:6

“This means that every Christian has the right of access to God; and that he must offer his work, his worship and himself to God.” Barclay. p. 199.

#### 3. A Holy Nation-cf. 1:2,16, Ex 19:6, Is 62:12

“Although [nation] is not used here to distinguish Israel from the surrounding nations, the adj. holy is used and this is pivotal. It is the one thing that makes them distinguishable from the nations. They are separated to God and from the nations. They are holy unlike the rest of the nations.” Smith. p. 25.

#### 4. A People for God’s possession-cf. Ex 19:5-6, Is 43:20-21,

Dt 4:20, 7:6, 14:2, 26:18, Acts 20:28, I Cor 6:19-20, Titus 2:13-14  
“ In Ex 19:5 we find God promising Israel that they shall be his possession if they keep his covenant. Their being a people for God’s possession “From among all the peoples” is conditioned on their obedience, keeping the covenant. If they do not obey then he will dispossess them and turn his back on them (Dt 31:17).” Smith p. 32.

### B. The purpose for this new identity. (9b)

#### 1. To proclaim the wonderful deeds-cf. Is 43:21

“Whatever else they may imply, the “spiritual sacrifices” are first of all the praise of God by His people...[wonderful deeds] does not refer to God’s “virtues” of ethical qualities in an abstract sense but to His praiseworthy deeds.” WBC. p. 110.

## 2. Of the One who called you

“What God has done is immediately defined by who he is”. WBC. p. 111.

a. **Out of darkness**-cf. Acts 26:17-18, Is 9:2, Eph 5:8, Col 1:12-13, I Jn 1:5-7

“The “darkness” of which Peter speaks is the same as the “ignorance” (1:14) that belonged to his readers’ Gentile past...It was the darkness of not being a people and of not knowing the mercy of God (v.10).”WBC.p. 111.

b. **Into His marvelous light**-cf. Is 42:6-7, 16

The light is the sum total of the relationships stated in v.9, the being a people and receiving mercy of v.10, and the future rewards promised throughout. It is both present and future.

“The elect community lives between the darkness of its pagan past and the light of its eschatological future. Alienated from the one and not yet at home in the other, it is a community of “strangers and foreigners” in the Roman Empire (2:11;cf. 1:1)”WBC. p. 112.

II. Specifically describes “darkness to light”-This new identity is a complete change from your old one. (10)

A. Change of your relation to one another. (10a-b)

1. Once you were not a people. (10a)-cf. Hos 1:9-10,2:1,23

2. Now you are the people of God. (10b)

“This means that the Christian is called out of insignificance into significance. It continually happens in this world that a man’s greatness lies not in himself but in what has been given him to do. The Christian’s greatness lies in the fact that God has chosen him to be his man and to do his work in the world. No Christian can be ordinary, for he is a man of God.” Barclay. p. 198

B. Change of relationship to God. (10c-d)-cf Eph 2:1-10

1. You were not the ones who received mercy. (10c)

2. Now you are the ones who received mercy. (10d)

“Peter uses the terminology to remind his Gentile readers that they are Gentiles. They were not always the people of God but have become so by God’s mercy now revealed in Jesus Christ(cf. 1:3; Eph 2:4)” WBC. p. 112.