



The Peculiar People of God

Titus 2:11 (ESV) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness **and to purify for himself a people for his own possession** who are zealous for good works.

(KJV) ... and purify unto himself **a peculiar people...**

“A peculiar people”—

1. GOD HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE A SPECIAL PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF

Genesis 17:8 “And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and **I will be their God.**”

Exodus 6:7 “**I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God,** and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, **and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**”

A. You are Redeemed and Forgiven!

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us...

B. You are His Purchased Possession!

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

C. You are a Member of God’s Royal Family!

1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2. GOD HAS ALWAYS CALLED HIS SPECIAL PEOPLE TO A DISTINCTIVE LIFESTYLE THAT REFLECTS DEEP DEVOTION TO HIM

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

James 1:27 ... keep (yourself) unstained from the world.

Philippians 1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

3. GOD’S PEOPLE WILL AT TIMES BE CALLED TO “SWIM UPSTREAM” AND BUCK CERTAIN CULTURAL TRENDS

“We are fools for Christ’s sake”—the apostle Paul

What worldly pursuit or pleasure do you believe God is calling you to say NO! to in 2018 in order to steer clear of the world’s influence?

What good work do you believe God is calling you to say YES! to in 2018 in order to let your light shine more brightly for HIM?

Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor
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