

# A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS - 2

“THY KINGDOM COME – THY WILL BE DONE”

RIVER OF LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

JANUARY 29, 2023

THE LORD'S PRAYER – PART 13

# 1 Peter 2

**9** 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. **10** 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.

**11** Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. - NIV

# Five Dimensions of our Identity as people of the Kingdom of God

1. We are Presence of God Bearers – Literally we carry His glory in jars of clay
2. **Bringers of Light in the midst of darkness**
3. Guardians of God's Word
4. Agents of reconciliation
5. Ambassadors of the Kingdom of God

# Living in Darkness

- Don't forget we have all come out of darkness

**Ephesians 4:17** With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. **18** Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. **19** They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity. – NLT

# Living in Darkness

- **Ephesians 4:20** But that isn't what you learned about Christ. **21** Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, **22** throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. **23** Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. **24** Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. — NLT

# People living in darkness do not understand the people of light!

- The first darkness we need to conquer is the darkness in our own hearts
  - **1John 1:5** This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. **6** So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. **7** But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.- NLT
  - John goes on to say that if we say we are without sin – we are liars
  - **1John 1:8** If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. **9** But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.
  - **2:1** My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. **2** He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

# People living in darkness do not understand the people of light!

- The Standard of living in the light is love, truth and obedience to God
- **1John 2:7** Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. **8** Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.
- **9** If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. **10** Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. **11** But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

# Learn to Shine as Lights!

**Philippians 2:12** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

**14** Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **15** so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky **16** as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. **17** But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. **18** So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. - NIV



# House Church Reflection

## ➤ Discussion

- How were you challenged by the Word of God Today? Or, convicted by the Holy Spirit?
  - How or what is God asking you to change so you can be more of a light in a dark world?
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- ## ➤ Pray for one another & speak out praises to God!