

**1 Peter 2:9-10**  
**The Mission**

**I. Intro**

**What are some of the roles that you play in life?** (function assumed or part played in a situation)

Let's do crowd participation here... What are some of your roles?

Some I wrote down: boss, coach, consultant, writer, preacher, parent, judge, host, friend, lover.

I know many of you thought about being a Christian as a role, this may be nuanced, but it is very important...

I would say that being a Christian influences all of your roles: you are a Christian coach, Christian parent, Christian boss, Christian spouse. etc...

To be a Christian means that your whole life is influenced and shaped by the work of Jesus.

Every role is transformed because of Jesus.

Has that become a reality in your life?

Listen, we all play very various roles, but when you become a follower of Jesus Christ, the key is you are called to live out His mission in all of those roles.

Over the next several weeks we are going to talk about some of the various roles we have in the body of Christ.

Today we are going to talk about the role we all share, the role as a member of the body of Christ.

As a member of the body of Christ we have multiple roles, but one mission.

Today I want to invite the Holy Spirit to move us to live out the mission.

What is the mission?

How do we live out the mission?

What's the motivation for the mission?

So let's pray together and invite the Spirit to lead us today.

**II. The Mission**

Our passage today is 1 Peter 2:9-10.

Peter was writing to a group of churches that were all suffering tremendous persecution.

And he was reminding them what the church should look like. What they should be doing.

And he comes, really to the pinnacle of the book in this passage, and this is what he says:

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

So, let's begin with the mission: to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Let's tease this out quickly.

The word proclaim is a strange word. This is actually the only place in the Bible it is used.

It means to advertise, publish or tell out.

And the word excellencies means mighty deeds or saving acts.

So what Peter is saying is I want you to advertise with your whole being the mighty acts of God. That's the mission.

Now, there is an important observation we need to make here... Who is the recipient of this mission?

The word you is used 7 times in these two verses and I want to make it very clear who the you is.

So, who is the you? Is it you (audience)? It is you (pastor)? YES!!

The you is you all! It's anyone who has been called out of darkness into marvelous light.

But listen, there is language that we use that I think is very dangerous and detrimental to us understanding this.

You see we use the phrase 'full-time' ministry for people like me, a pastor. Brian is the professional, he gets on the stage and proclaims the excellencies of God. And what happens there can be a dangerous trend to think, I need to bring people to church so they can hear Brian. He's better at proclaiming than me.

You see if this is the mission of just pastors then we create a dangerous hierarchy in the church. We start to think that what Brian does is sacred and what I do is secular.

But friends, if there is our mission, if it is for all of us, then all of our lives are sacred, and all of our lives are ministry.

**“Every Christian must be fully Christian by bringing God into his whole life, not merely into some spiritual realm.”**

Now, the question I think most of us jump to, is How do we do that? What does that look like? Am I supposed to just run up to everyone and tell them? In our world what does that look like? And we start to freak out a little. We start to think oh man, I need to stand on a street corner, I need to start wearing Christian t-shirts.

### **III. How do we live on mission?**

I am a practical person. I love people to teach me how to do things.

I'm a youtube fix it aficionado. If something is broken, you just look it up on youtube and you can fix it. Car issues? Tricks for painting? Fixing your blender? I've found it all.

Listen, the way to live out the mission of God, to declare His excellencies, it's not a youtube video. I'm not going to give you a 3-step process to do it. You don't need to add something to your schedule.

### **We live on mission through invitation.**

But to who is the invitation?!

You see when God called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light, He did something very significant, He gave you His Spirit. The Spirit of God actually lives within and one of His purposes is to lead us to declare the excellencies of the one who brought us out of darkness in word and deed.

So how do we live out this mission?

It's an invitation to the Spirit... Spirit as a walk into the office today, will you empower me to show kindness the way you have shown me kindness?

As you go to lunch today, it's inviting the Spirit to lead you in your interaction to show grace and joy.

It's inviting the Spirit to help you be attune to His leading for when it is time to declare with words about the excellencies of God.

Living on mission begins with an inner dialogue with the Spirit and that will lead to an outward expression.

When you start to see all of life as sacred, you will invite the Spirit into every moment.

And as we do that we will start to live on mission.

Now, it's important I think at this point to remind you again who the you is in this passage.

You see the you isn't you singular, it's you all.

You weren't designed to declare the excellencies alone. We need each other in this. We need to pray for each other. We need to share with each other how the Spirit is working.

Even this week as we were in preaching cohort, one of the guys was sharing how the Spirit provided an opportunity to actually declare God's excellencies through a prayer. It was a cool story. And I need that. I need to hear how the Spirit is working in your life. And you need to hear how He is working in mine.

So our mission, is to declare the excellencies of God, to proclaim the gospel story, and we do that by inviting the Spirit into every moment of our lives, and to lead us through word and deed in that declaration.

Which leads us to an important crux of this conversation; the Why?!

Now, what would make you want to start thinking like this? What would make you as a member of the body of Christ, start to live out this mission? What would motivate you?

#### **IV. What's the motivation for the mission?**

I've shared this once before but it helps answer the question...

About 8 years ago I started experiencing some pretty intense chronic pain. I went to several doctors, had lots of tests and no one could figure out what was wrong. After three years I ended up in Dr. Garriaga's office. Within minutes he was able to diagnose me. He put me on a drug called remicade and within a month I was pain free. That was five years ago. And still five years later, I will tell the story of what Dr. Garriaga did for me because of the crazy healing transformation I experienced.

Do you know what motivates us? Transformation.

Have you noticed the seven transformations that God provides for those in Christ in this passage?

#### **2 Peter 2:9-10**

He transforms us into a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, he calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light, He makes us His people, He gives us mercy.

I wish we had time to really flesh these things out, and I would encourage you this week, to meditate on this passage, because what Peter is saying here is, God has done these things, He has transformed you in this way, and this is the motivation to live out His mission.

I hope you caught that because the order is important. God doesn't say, if you declare my excellencies you can have mercy, and be royal and my people. He has given you this transformation and therefore the privilege to declare what He has done.

Have you heard those crazy mobile on the run commercials for 50 cent drinks? They show someone basically doing nothing and then say — you earned it! When the Cardinals score 6 runs you earn cheap drinks. In a crazy way, that's a gospel message!

Because of the work on Jesus on the cross, you don't get 50 cent drinks, you are chosen into a new race, you become royalty and a priest, you are set apart, you are God's beloved, you are His people and you have His mercy!

Let me take each a little deeper:

1. Chosen Race: this means whether you are Italian, or Hungarian, or German, or Russian... to be a part of this group it is unmerited. There is no elitism.
2. Royal Priesthood: Priesthood means a body made up entirely of priests. You don't need a go-between anymore. No one stands between us and God and no one stands over us in relation to God.
3. A Holy Nation: Holy here is not morally, but set apart. God is setting you a part as a citizen of a different place, heaven. And in heaven there is no more sin, evil, pain or suffering.
4. God's possession: This means we were bought with a price. And in the eyes of God you are His. His special treasure.

Because of Jesus you have the privilege of the highest status, full access to the creator of the world, a hope of a perfect world, and a love that is unparalleled!

## **V. Conclusion**

My friends, when we start to embrace that, declaring His excellencies becomes a no-brainer!

What roles do you play in life?

Today I hope you see that God has no transformed you that He wants to impact every single one of those roles. And He is inviting you to the privilege of declaring His excellencies in all of those roles!