



"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

1 Peter 2:9

~ This series is titled "We Are The Church." It is in essence a theology of the Bride of Christ. But we will also be asking the question "What is a healthy church?"

~ In a world plagued with identity crisis and confusion, what we need is a better understanding of who and what we are.

- A Testimony from an "estranged" Christian on Social Media ... He wrote these words ... "I have zero judgment for anyone who attends church and don't view church as bad. When people ask me if we go to church anywhere, I say, "No, but we are going to reform the church."

(From a post titled: Why We Don't Attend Church Anymore)

> What is the Church? <

~ The most simplest answer to that question is the church is a people, not a _____.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

- 1 Peter 2:9-10

> 3 Conclusions from 1 Peter 2:9-10...

I. We are a Holy _____.

II. We are God's _____.

III. Proclaim the Excellent _____ of our God.

> The church is not just a NT concept. It existed in the OT ... note the Hebrew word *qahal*.

~ The Pentateuch used this Hebrew word a little over 120 times; in pretty much every use it meant = an assembly, a company, or a group of people.

~ The Greek septuagint recognized this gathering and used the same concept. The Greek word *ekklesia* meant a "*calling out*."

A Contemporary Definition of the Church:

(Pulled from *Rediscover Church: Why the Body of Christ is Essential*)

- A group of _____

- who assemble as an earthly _____ of Christ's heavenly kingdom

- to affirm one another as his _____ through the ordinances

- to proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King

- to display God's own holiness & love through a _____ and diverse people

- following the teaching and example of the pastors/_____.

> Distinctions of the church ...

a) invisible church & visible church

b) the local church & the church universal