

God's People are having an Identity Crisis.

We cannot lose our identity and just blend into a world that values and worships everything Christ died for, that dismisses His purposes, and has no time for the things of God.

Peter did not want the early church to lose their identity. He did not want them just to blend in. In this passage, he gives six titles that further explain what we are part of and what we have joined.

1 Peter 2:4-10

1. Living Stones (1 Peter 2:4-5)

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him." (Romans 12:1, NLT)

Hebrews 13:15 – Sacrifices of Praise

2. Spiritual House (1 Peter 2:5)

What is the main purpose of a follower of Jesus?

3. Chosen Race (Isaiah 43:20, Exodus 19:6)

What makes us Chosen?

We glorify God by saying yes to Jesus, to the cross, to dying to self, to a crucified life, to sacrifice, to loving at a higher level. Then you become part of God's chosen, a member of the elect, a son/daughter of the king—royalty.

We are God's representatives, meaning people can observe the work of the Trinity in our lives.

- They observe that we are a people that transcend ethnicity, language, geographical roots, skin color, socio-economic status, and financial standing.
- They observe our love, grace, forgiveness, and that we are compelled by God's love.
- They observe our values, which are values of the Kingdom, not of this world. Not American values, or rural values, or Michigan values, but God's values.
- The church does family, marriage, singleness, parenting, sexuality, and money differently than the world. We want to honor God.
- They observe our transformation, growth, and see us becoming more like Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- How are you being transformed? Are you choosing to engage in things that transform your spirit?

4. Royal Priesthood (Isaiah 61:6)

“You will be called priests of the LORD, ministers of our God. You will feed on the treasures of the nations and boast in their riches. ⁷Instead of shame and dishonor, you will enjoy a double share of honor. You will possess a double portion of prosperity in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.

⁸“For I, the LORD, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will faithfully reward my people for their suffering and make an everlasting covenant with them.” (Isaiah 61:6-8, NLT)

5. Holy Nation

We are a Holy Nation. It’s not America. It’s not Canada. It’s not Mexico. It’s bigger and better; we have a perfect King, an eternal future, and a present reality.

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:33, NLT)

“Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”” (John 3:3, NLT)

6. God’s Possession

How do we live if we are God’s possession?

⁶For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NLT)

“Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.” (1 Peter 2:10, NLT)

Questions to Ponder Prayerfully

- What do you think of how Peter describes us as living, holy, chosen, royal, and being built? Do you live in these truths?
- What do you identify with easily? Is it a political party, the news, your knowledge, sports, etc.?
- How would your friends describe your core values?
- How is God inviting you to identify with Him as part of the Kingdom of God?
- Do you view yourself as part of a Priesthood? You have direct access to God, and we, the church, are to help people get to Him through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about because of what you have learned today?