

Be What You Are

July 25, 2021

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:22-2:10, Exodus 19:4-6

Bottom Line: The world needs the Church to be what we are.

Peter is writing to encourage churches who are suddenly outcasts in their own homeland because they have decided to follow Jesus.

You Have a New Identity . . .

You Are God's Chosen People

- These Christians are now a part of God's chosen people, the Family of Abraham. We are united with Israel, and we will go through similar experiences

You Are God's Temple

- Christians are a living temple, where God's Spirit lives, and where acceptable sacrifices to Him are made

You Are Royal Priests

- Your role is to represent God to the world, and represent the world to God

. . . Now Be What You Are

Let the Spirit Transform Your Lives

- The Spirit will transform us and change us into the image of Christ, we need to be active partners in that process. As we live out this new identity, we fulfill our purpose as priests, to show our world who God is.

Love The Church Deeply

- We need to love each other deeply, and fill the gaps between us with trust and grace. When we do this, people will see the love of God when they look at us.

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. How do you see your identity as a Christian? What has changed about you since you made Jesus the Lord of your life, or started taking Him seriously?
3. How is the Holy Spirit working in you right now? Are you partnering in this process?
4. How can you love the Church sincerely? Where do you need to let love, trust, and grace fill the gaps of opinion that exist between you and others in the Church?