

Chosen Exiles

July 4, 2021

Scriptures: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Bottom Line: The Church are chosen exiles because of Jesus

"The further out of the public square Christians are pushed, the angrier and more frantic often times their rhetoric becomes. It is out of fear of being forgotten, we seek to span our growing distance from the center with volume and intensity rather than engaging with intimacy."

– John Tyson

Peter writes to the Church to tell them that the primary way they are a faithful presence in society is through love, service, and suffering.

Peter 1:1-2 - Anchors of Our Identity

Chosen

God is not unaware of what is happening in your life. He has chosen you for this time and place.

Foreigners/Exiles

The present world is not our home, so there should be times where we don't fit in.

Because of Jesus

The Spirit of God is working in you through your faith in Jesus — there is ongoing forgiveness and transformation.

"He has chosen you to be part of something bigger than the small borders of your own life. You are the son or daughter of a Father who knows everything about you because He is the one that has written your story. You are the object of His perseverant, unyielding, transforming grace, and He will not stop pursuing you until that work is done. You have been blessed with continual forgiveness and cleansing."

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. **Read** John 15:16; Acts 13:17; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
 - a. What does it mean to be chosen or elect based on these passages?
3. Where or when have you experienced the feeling of being a "foreigner" or "exile?" Have you ever felt this way because of your faith in Jesus?
4. How could this kind of perspective change our engagement in culture?