

Church: a people, not a place.

# Church Matters

- I. We represent God on earth (1Pt 2:9-10).**
- II. God equips us for his mission (1Pt 4:11-12).**
- III. Each of us has a gift/place in the body (1Co 12).**

# Church: We Represent God on Earth

**1Pt 2:9-12**

Big Idea: God made us his representatives; so, we proclaim his excellencies in word and deed.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Big Idea: God made us his representatives; so, we proclaim his excellencies in word and deed.

# Church: Represent God

- 1. God made us his representatives (v. 9).**
- 2. Proclaim his excellencies (v. 9).**
- 3. God empowers us for the task (v. 10).**
- 4. Live excellently (vv. 11-12).**

1. God made us his representatives (v. 9).

**<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession ...**



## 6 Church Identifiers:

- i. Chosen by GRACE (v. 9a; Eph 1:3-10).**
- ii. Appointed to a royal position (v. 9b; 2Co 5:17-20).**
- iii. Set apart for God (v. 9c; 1Pt 1:13-16).**
- iv. A purchased people (v. 9d; Heb 9:12).**
- v. Proclaimers of the gospel (v. 9e; Mt 28:19-20).**
- vi. Walk in his marvelous light (v. 9f).**

2. Proclaim his excellencies (v. 9).

**“...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”**

Church, we exist to: “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Proclaim the excellencies of Christ.

- i. Go to the people.**
- ii. Learn the language.**
- iii. Share Jesus on their level.**
- iv. Focus on Christ (not prosperity, etc).**

3. God made us his people (v. 10).

**Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

## God's people are new creations!

- i. Our past does not define us (v. 10; Eph 2:1-4, 13).**
- ii. Our difficulties cannot stop us (1Pt 1:6, 7).**
- iii. Our failures do not define us (v. 10b).**
- iv. We are God's people.**

#### 4. Live the excellencies of Christ (vv. 11-12).

**<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

## Live as witnesses for Christ

- i. Look forward to going home (v. 11a).**
- ii. Watchout for the flesh (v. 11b).**
- iii. Live honorably (v. 12a).**
- iv. Live in the midst of people who need Jesus (v. 12b).**



Proclaim his excellencies in word and deed.