

SESSION 8

Gathered as God's Holy Nation

TRUTH: *What is God saying?*

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12. What do you think it means that the church is a new holy nation?

What do you think Peter means when he describes the church as “sojourners and exiles” in this world? What does that say about our various allegiances in this world?

EQUIPPING: *How do we live this out?*

In our culture, what are the rivals to Jesus for the primary allegiance of your heart?

What are some of the ways someone's life would look different if they were living primarily as a citizen of Jesus' kingdom rather than a citizen of this world?

ACCOUNTABILITY: *How am I personally doing in this area?*

Brian said, “we very easily get our love for our nation wrapped up and mixed together with our allegiance to the kingdom of God. Like being a Christian is the same as being a good patriotic American.” Which do you personally tend to see as primary, your allegiance to your country of origin, or your allegiance to God's “holy nation?”



The values of this world are often at odds with the values of the kingdom of God (in regards to marriage, money, power, sex, etc). What are some of the ways that you personally need to be “re-aligned” to Jesus’ kingdom values instead of the values of this world?

MISSION: *Going out with the Gospel*

Do you see yourself as an ambassador to the world from Jesus’ kingdom?

Ambassadors represent their country of origin inside of a new country, to bridge the gap between the two kingdoms. That means that they can’t assimilate into the country where they live (they can’t be OF the world). It also means they have to be present in engaging the place where they live (they have to be IN the world). Which is a bigger struggle for you: not assimilating, or constantly engaging?

SUPPLICATION: *Praying for what only God can do*

Ask God to help you live with Jesus and His kingdom as your primary allegiance, and to live out his kingdom values in this world as an exile. Ask Him to help make you a faithful ambassador into this world!