

1 Peter *(opening slide)*

Review: The Response to Redemption. Since we have received such a great deal from God in salvation, we should be motivated to change. In the Matters of our Minds, we should think differently. In the past we may have been selfish in our thoughts, but now we should always be ready to respond to the Lord's will. In the Character of our Conduct we should behave differently. In the past we may have indulged in the sinful nature, but now we should always be obedient to his word. And in the Habits of our Hearts we should live differently. In the past we may have had hardened hearts, but now we should live as foreigners who love people his way. And now today, we continue on this idea of living as foreigners. Peter says that because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are...

Peculiar People

1 Peter 2:4-12

v. 4 as you come to him

Here is a theme for OBCers... keep on coming to Jesus.

We are spiritual; We are set apart; We are strangers

1. We are spiritual

v. 5 We are like living stones being built into a spiritual house.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

 Do you not know that **your body is a temple** of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Ephesians 2:22

in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling **in which God lives** by his Spirit.

We are becoming a holy priesthood.

The priests were special people in the OT, set apart to serve God, focusing on spiritual matters...

☞ **Offering acceptable spiritual sacrifices to God.**

*Christians today do not bring animal sacrifices as did the Old Testament worshipers; but ☞ we do have our own sacrifices to present to God. We ought to **give our bodies** to Him as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2), as well as the **praise** of our lips (Hebrews 13:15) and the good works we do for others (Hebrews 13:16). The **money** and other material things we share with others in God's service is also a spiritual sacrifice (Philippians 4:10-20).*

Psalms 50:23

☞ He who sacrifices **thank offerings** honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.

v. 6 Jesus is the Cornerstone of this spiritual house.

To us, "building the church" doesn't mean putting up a building or increasing the number of people at our meetings. It means building on the foundation of Christ and encouraging *every believer in our congregation* on the road toward the goals of unity, spiritual maturity, and Christ-likeness.

A contractor in Michigan was building a house and the construction of the first floor went smoothly. But when they started on the second floor, they had nothing but trouble. None of the materials from the lumberyard would fit properly. Then they discovered the reason: they were working with two different sets of blueprints! Once they got rid of the old set, everything went well and they built a lovely house.

Too often, Christians hinder the building of the church because they are following the wrong plans. If all of us would follow God's blueprints given in His Word, we would be able to work together without discord and build His church for His glory.

2. ☞ We are set apart

v. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God

☞ God has **chosen** us purely because of His love and grace. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you" (John 15:16, NIV).

Ephesians 1:4

for he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

In the Old Testament period, God's people had a priesthood; but today, God's people are ☞ **a royal priesthood**. *Each individual believer has the privilege of coming into the presence of God. We do not come to God through any person on earth, but only through the one Mediator, Jesus Christ. Because He is alive in glory, interceding for us, we can minister as holy priests.*

☞ We are **a holy nation**. *We have been set apart to belong exclusively to God. Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), so we obey heaven's laws and seek to please heaven's Lord.*

☞ *Now that we have trusted Christ, we are a part of God's people. We are a "**people belonging to God**," because He purchased us with the blood of His own Son (Acts 20:28).*

Colossians 1:13

he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom

☞ **We declare the praises of God.**

All of these privileges carry with them one big responsibility: revealing the praises of God to a lost world. The verb translated "declare" means "to tell out; to advertise." Because the world is "in the dark," people do not know the "excellencies" of God; but they should see ☞ *them in our lives. Each citizen of heaven is a **living "advertisement"** for the virtues of God and the blessings of the Christian life. Our lives should radiate the "marvelous light" into which God has graciously called us.*

Ephesians 5:8-10

you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light **9** (for ☞ the fruit of the light consists in all **goodness, righteousness** and **truth**) **10** and find out what **pleases the Lord**.

v. 10 We were not a people, but now we are the people of God; Now we have received mercy.

Hebrews 4:15-16

we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. **16**

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

We are set apart... *It is important that we maintain our separated position in this world. We must not be isolated, because the world needs our influence and witness; but we must* ☞ *not permit the world to infect us or change us. **Separation is not isolation; it is contact without contamination.***

3. ☞ We are strangers

v. 11 **we are aliens and strangers; So, abstain from sinful desires which war against your soul.**

1 Peter 4:3-4

you have spent enough time in the past... living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. **4** They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.

Romans 13:13-14

☞ Let us **behave decently**... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Colossians 3:5-8

☞ **Put to death**, therefore, whatever belongs to **your earthly nature**: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

☞ v. 12 **live good lives; Let others see your good deeds.**

Philippians 1:27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Romans 12:17

☞ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to **do what is right** in the eyes of everybody.

Perhaps they will glorify God because of you.

Matthew 5:14-16

☞ **"You are the light of the world.** A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

This little light of mine...

We are Peculiar People

☞ This doesn't mean we are **aberrant**, but perhaps we are **atypical**.

Not **odd**, but perhaps **original**.

Not **quirky**, but perhaps **quizzical**.

Not **discrepant**, but perhaps **distinct**.

Not **eccentric**, but rather, **exceptional**.

We are not called to be **weird and wacky**, but rather to be **good and godly**; and that makes us peculiar people.

☞ **We are Spiritual; We are Set-Apart; We are Strangers**