

Let The Church Be The Church

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

I. The church is the most unique entity on this earth.

- The church has been chosen, called and anointed to proclaim the greatest message ever.
- However, we are living in a generation of compromising congregations.
- These are the last days. The end times.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- D. We are watching scripture be fulfilled before our very eyes.
- E. It is hard to discern what the church is anymore.
- F. Churches are now social clubs, bingo halls, restaurants, athletic clubs, business centers or political platforms.
- G. It is time for the church to be the church.

II. What does it mean to be the church?

Peter wrote:

A. “ye are a chosen generation,...”

- Chosen means picked out.
- The church has been hand picked by God.

B. A royal priesthood.

1. Royal means regal and kingly.
2. Priesthood tells us we are spiritual leaders.
 - a. How dare the witches and warlocks of this area think they are spiritual powerhouses.
 - b. It is ludicrous for the church to cower and be afraid of ANYTHING the devil dishes up.

C. An holy nation.

1. A most holy multitude.
2. We hear the word holy so much, but what does it really mean?
 - a. The antithesis of profane.
 - b. Something sacred and exalted.
3. God has exalted His church.
4. He has lifted us up from the rubble and rubbish of ruin and placed us on the pedestal of power.

D. A peculiar people.

1. This does not mean we are strange or even different.
2. It literally means preserved possession.
3. It signifies ownership of something of great value.

- E. Knowing all this, Peter finished verse 9 with, “that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”
- F. We were not a people but now we are...in the church.
- G. We did not deserve mercy, yet we have mercy...in the church.
- H. It is time for the church to be the church.

III. What does it mean to be the church?

- A. The church is a group of people, called out, picked up, washed off, shined up, filled up, fired up, and not ashamed!
- B. The church is a group of people who know how to praise God for what He has done for them.
- C. The church is a group of people who praise God in proportion to how good He has been.

Psalm 150:1-2

1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness

IV. What does it mean to be the church?

Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt

- A. These signs SHALL follow the church!
 - 1. Not maybe, might or should...but shall.

B. It is time for the church to be the church.

V. What does it mean to be the church?

Luke 10:19

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

A. The devil can't hurt you.

B. Power over bondage.

- Power over addictions.
- Power over temptation.
- Power over sin.
- Power over trouble.
- Power over trials.
- Power over spirits.

C. It is time for the church to be the church.

VI. What does it mean to be the church?

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- The church is to be a witness.
- The church has the power and boldness to witness.
- Nothing should be propagated more than the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- The last I heard, Pentecost is the fastest growing movement in the world.
- It is time for the church to be the church.