

You Are A Chosen Race; 1 Peter 2:9

I. Race

- A. This English word did not come into use until the mid 1500s
- B. Merriam Webster's definitions
 1. A family, tribe, people, or nation belonging to the same stock
 2. A class or kind of people unified by shared interests, habits, or characteristics (the English race) ¹
- C. We have basically taken only one part of this definition and applied it to mankind across the board — the color of our skin
 1. It doesn't matter where you were born, if your skin is a dark brown then you are 'African' — if your skin is a light color, but your facial features are different, you are Asian, etc.
 2. And we call these differences in appearance a 'race'
 3. We have caused all kinds of problems because of this incorrect labeling of people
 4. We all can trace our roots back to one person, Adam
 5. There is one race, the human race
- D. And we are the chosen race

II. Chosen

- A. Senior Airman, Below the Zone — an early promotion board from E-3 to E-4
 1. I was selected to appear before the board
 2. I was selected as the winner of the board
 3. I was promoted to E-4 six months early
 4. What a feeling, being chosen as the winner!
- B. We are a select, chosen, elected group of people
 1. Peters begins his letter with the idea of being a select group of people
 2. 1 Peter 1:1–2 (ESV); ¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.
 3. In the Old Testament the Israelites had broken the human race into two groups of people
 4. Ephesians 2:13–16 (ESV); ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
 5. Paul divides the human race into two different groups, the saved and the unsaved
 6. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV); For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- C. Perishing or saved
 1. God is not partial when it comes to His gospel — He wants all people to hear it and have an opportunity to obey it
 2. Anyone can become part of the chosen race through their obedience of faith
 3. Romans 16:25–27 (ESV); ²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to

¹ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

4. It is the Gospel that brings about our obedience to it, that is why Paul says that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation
 5. Paul tells us it is the Gospel that calls us to salvation
 6. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (ESV); ¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. God has chosen us through His Gospel to be obedient to the faith — then we become part of the chosen race
- E. Acts 2:41 (ESV); So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
- F. Acts 2:46–47 (ESV); ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- III. Don't Stumble
- A. 1 Peter 2:7–8 (ESV); ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
- B. If you obey the call of the Gospel God will choose you!