

You Are a Holy Nation; 1 Peter 2:9

I. Who Are You?

- A. Not a question we spend a lot of time thinking about
- B. We take our 'ego' for granted
 - 1. Each one of us has a different personality, a different ego, a different soul
 - 2. Each one of us are made in God's image, yet each one of us are different
 - 3. Psalm 139:13–16 (ESV); ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
 - 4. Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV); "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- C. Who we are matters to God
- D. He has given us life and purpose — and tells us so
- E. He chose us (a chosen race), consecrated us (a royal priesthood), and set us apart (a holy nation)

II. Nation

- A. Generally speaking, we think about physical nations with geographical boundaries
 - 1. America — From the Gulf of Mexico (and the country of Mexico) to Canada; from the Pacific to the Atlantic
 - 2. When I think of a country my mind automatically draws a picture of that country on its continent
 - 3. I think about neighboring countries — I view the geographic location in my mind
- B. "A body of persons united by kinship, culture, and common traditions" ¹
- C. The English word Ethnic comes from this Greek word
 - 1. Again, we're back to geographical locations
 - 2. We view ethnic foods as foods from certain areas in the world
 - 3. We place too much emphasis on location and not enough on 'kinship, culture, and common traditions'
- D. The Israelites did the same thing — they were chosen by God
 - 1. They viewed themselves as God's chosen nation — and, in a way, they were correct
 - 2. They were chosen because of Abraham's righteousness to bear the Messiah through their lineage (*genos - ancestral stock, descendant*)
 - 3. Genesis 12:1–3 (ESV); ¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
 - 4. Galatians 3:16 (ESV); Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.
- E. But the 'nation' that God mentions through Peter is not one of geographical borders
- F. Romans 2:28–29 (ESV); ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 276.

- G. Those who have had their heart circumcised belong to this nation without borders
- H. Colossians 2:11–12 (ESV); ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.
- I. The Lord added them to His nation — the nation of Christianity, the church (Acts 2:47)

III. Holy

- A. Dedicated (or consecrated — made or declared sacred) to the service of God ²
- B. That is who we are — we should have a singular purpose, to give glory and honor to God
- C. What does ‘holy’ look like?
 - 1. Our speech should be holy (dedicated to God’s service)
 - a) Ephesians 4:29 (ESV); Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
 - b) Colossians 4:6 (ESV); Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
 - c) Ephesians 5:19 (KJV 1900); Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
 - 2. The way we live should be holy (dedicated to God’s service)
 - a) 2 Peter 3:10–12 (ESV); ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!
 - b) 1 Peter 1:13–16 (ESV); ¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
 - c) In everything you do, you should ask yourself, “is God pleased with this?” — “is this action dedicated to God’s service?”

IV. You Are A Holy Nation

- A. God has set us (the Christian nation) apart and dedicated us to His service
- B. We are a nation without borders — We are in fellowship with all who are in fellowship with God
- C. Every country I went to I was able to worship with the Body of Christ
- D. We are set apart, our entire lives are dedicated to God’s service

² Ibid, 10.