

## WHERE DO WE STAND?

1 Peter 2:9-17

1 Peter 2:9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

10 "Once you were not a people; now you are the people of God. Once you received none of God's mercy; now you have received his mercy."

11 Dear brothers and sisters, you are foreigners and aliens here. So I warn you to keep away from evil desires because they fight against your very souls.

12 Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when he comes to judge the world.

13 For the Lord's sake, accept all authority - the king as head of state,

14 and the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish all who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

15 It is God's will that your good lives should silence those who make foolish accusations against you.

16 You are not slaves; you are free. But your freedom is not an excuse to do evil. You are free to live as God's slaves.

17 Show respect for everyone. Love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God. Show respect for the king.

### We Are A Chosen People

John 18:36 Then Jesus answered, "I am not an earthly king. If I were, my followers would have fought when I was arrested by the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

37 Pilate replied, "You are a king then?" "You say that I am a king, and you are right," Jesus said. "I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."

### Our Culture Is Lost

Ecclesiastes 10:2 The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. (NIV)

John 17:13 "And now I am coming to you. I have told them many things while I was with them so they would be filled with my joy.

14 I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not.

15 I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.

16 They are not part of this world any more than I am.

17 Make them pure and holy by teaching them your words of truth.

18 As you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.

Ephesians 5:15 So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise.

16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.

### Our Concerns Matter

### Our Character Is Important

Matthew 10:16 "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. Be as wary as snakes and harmless as doves.

17 But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and beaten in the synagogues.

18 And you must stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. This will be your opportunity to tell them about me - yes, to witness to the world.

19 When you are arrested, don't worry about what to say in your defense, because you will be given the right words at the right time.

20 For it won't be you doing the talking - it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

### Our Call Is Obvious

#### Our Call Is To Respect Our Leaders

1 Timothy 2:1 I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks.

2 Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity.

3 This is good and pleases God our Savior,

4 for he wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

Romans 13:1 Obey the government, for God is the one who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by God.

2 So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow.

3 For the authorities do not frighten people who are doing right, but they frighten those who do wrong. So do what they say, and you will get along well.

4 The authorities are sent by God to help you. But if you are doing something wrong, of course you should be afraid, for you will be punished. The authorities are established by God for that very purpose, to punish those who do wrong.

5 So you must obey the government for two reasons: to keep from being punished and to keep a clear conscience.

6 Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid so they can keep on doing the work God intended them to do.

7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and import duties, and give respect and honor to all to whom it is due.

Titus 3:1 Remind your people to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good.

2 They must not speak evil of anyone, and they must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.

Our Call Is To Reach People For Christ

Our Call Is To Maintain A Righteous Standard

Our Call Is To Provide A Place Of Restoration

Our Call Is To Raise Up Disciples

Our Call Is To Reveal The Love Of God