

I Peter 2: 9-12
(New International Version, NIV)

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

OASIS: The Goodness of Declaring and Doing, I Peter 2: 9-12

Leaders note: This study is specially designed to integrate with our church's current emphases:

- *the culmination of our "doing good" series and*
- *the arrival of our Global Awareness Week.*

We have selected this short but high-powered passage because it speaks into these dual emphases. The passage is deliberately shorter than most so that a block of time (10 minutes?) can be used for group members to share stories about their recent experiences of "doing good" (whether they used the "you really matter" cards or not). Hopefully, this will be a celebratory way of culminating our fall emphasis.

Possible Starter question: How or in what ways does it affect you to know that "you really matter to God"? Share with one another a couple of ideas or ways.

Transitional comment: Now, let's look at a passage that addresses this.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading (if you haven't already prayed)
- Let's listen as someone reads our passage aloud.
- Now, let's take several minutes to work through the passage on our own, as we look for repeated words and ideas, important contrasts, and major themes.

Initial set of observations (vs. 9-12):

- O What repeated words and ideas did you observe? (*n.b. there are more repeated ideas than words*)
- O What key contrasts did you find?

First segment (vs. 9 & 10): (*now for a closer look!*)

- O What is Peter saying about who Christians are to be?
 - I What does each term convey? What do the adjectives or modifiers add?
 - I Which qualities or identities are "given realities"? Which do we need to develop or intentionally pursue?
 - A What can this mean for our identity or self-concept?
 - A Which aspects are best reflected in our Life Community?
- O What changes have occurred in their lives? How? By whom?
- O As a result of all this, what can we do as Christians?
 - A What does it mean or look like to "declare the praises of him..."?

Second segment (vs. 11 & 12):

O In vs. 11, what insights does Peter add about our identity?

O What is the internal struggle he highlights?

I Why does Peter underscore this war?

A Share some examples of how we can take this concern seriously.

A What are some practical ways of “abstaining from evil desires”?
Some ways we can help one another?

O What is the challenge that Peter gives these Christians?

O What reactions or responses might occur? What is the ultimate hope?

Summary/conclusion:

- In recent weeks, what are some of the ways you have been able to “do good”?
- How have you felt or been affected?
- What have been some of the diverse responses you have gotten?

Prayer together that this may become a continuous lifestyle for us. Let’s pray that:

- a. we develop a heart for all people, a heart like God’s,
 - b. our eyes are opened to the presence and needs of people near and far,
 - c. each of us grows in love and action in helping others, for Jesus’ sake.
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Text is on other page or www.Biblegateway.com

- a. BIG idea: Doing good includes celebrating what God is doing in us, through us, and around the world.
- b. Key verse/idea: I Peter 2: 12: **“Live such good lives...that they may see your good deeds and glorify God you...”**
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?).
- e. Determine the core questions you’ll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time.
- f. Always reword questions in words are comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn’t make sense to you, then discard it.)
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- i. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts very sparingly, even if they are relevant. Otherwise, other texts will push you more into the “teacher role,” rather than that of facilitator. It also can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the 1-volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21st Century Edition, IVP). It is well worth the \$40.