
Walking with Jesus Week 8 Our Identity: A People

June 18, 2017

The Big Idea: We are a people, a priesthood and a nation - declaring together the praises of our Deliverer.

1 Peter 2:1-10

The Call to a Living Community: 3 metaphors in these verses for the church

1. CITIZENS in a nation

- We are a chosen people, royal priesthood, and holy nation

2. CHILDREN in a family. V2:17

- We have the same blood line

3. STONES in a Temple

- A spiritual house V4-5
- We are the house of the Spirit.

At ECC:

Life transformation **BEGINS** with encounters with God, is **SHAPED** by my community, is **ESTABLISHED** by spiritual disciplines, **ENERGIZED** through service, and **REPRODUCED** through authentic relationships.

The Ethic for an Alien Community:

- To **DECLARE THE PRAISES** of him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

Where is the power for this kind of community? V4

1. Acknowledge you have a CORNERSTONE

2. See him as PRECIOUS. V6-7

3. ALIGN yourself with him

WWJ8 – Community Group Questions

- What is the first thing that comes to mind when asked about your identity?
- Explain what being a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, means to you personally.
- How would it impact our church body if we really accepted each other as family? What would be the long-term results?
- What if we stopped asking “What does the church have to offer me?” and started asking “What can I offer the church?” How would that impact your personal church experience? How would that impact our church body overall? How would that impact our community?
- Scripture calls us living stones that are being built into a spiritual house with Jesus being the chief corner stone. Jim talked about how each stone is dependent on the other stones in the wall. That each stone is connected, dependent upon, and aligned with the other stones. In your own words describe how you have experienced this in your faith journey. How could we as a group and we as a church do this better?
- What does it mean to align your-self with the chief corner stone? Are there areas in your life that need to be aligned?