



I PETER SERIES: LIVING AS GOD'S POSSESSION

PASTOR BRIAN COLES
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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **The King is in the Room** (*Phil Wickham*)
- **Worthy Is the Lamb** (*Hillsong Worship*)
- **Endless Praise** (*Charity Gayle*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 1 Peter 2:4-10
- Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

OPENING PRAYER (10 min)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word, and to help group members understand their identity as living stones in His spiritual house.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share about a time when you had to convert currency or adapt to a completely different culture. What was challenging about the transition?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Identity in Christ (I Peter 2:9-12)

1. Pastor Brian emphasized that we don't add Jesus to our life—we give up our life and Jesus becomes our life. What's the difference between these two approaches? Which one more accurately describes your current relationship with Christ?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 together. Which of these identity markers resonates most with you: "chosen people", "royal priesthood", "holy nation", or "God's special possession"? Why?
3. The sermon asked: "How gone is your old? How here is your new?" How would you honestly answer this question about your own spiritual transformation?
4. What does it mean practically to live as "foreigners and exiles" (v. 11) in today's culture? What are some specific ways this should affect your daily choices?

Overcoming Evil with Good (I Peter 2:13-17)

5. Pastor Brian said, "When I was a kid, people would get in your face and say, 'What are you gonna do about it?' Our response is, 'I'm gonna good you so bad.'" Share an example of when you've seen someone overcome evil with good. What was the result?
6. How does the concept of submission as a "weapon" challenge our cultural understanding of power and strength?
7. Read I Peter 2:16. How can we balance Christian freedom with Christian responsibility? Can you think of a time when you've seen freedom misused as a "cover-up for evil"?

Suffering and Following Christ's Example (I Peter 2:18-25)

8. Peter addresses slaves who had no power or rights, encouraging them to submit even to harsh masters. How does this teaching apply to modern employment, difficult relationships, or situations where we feel powerless?
9. Read verses 21-24. How does Christ's example of suffering inform how we should respond to unfair treatment or persecution?
10. The sermon mentioned that we shouldn't operate from "a spirit of control." Where in your life are you tempted to control outcomes rather than trust God's oversight?

Relationships and Reverence (I Peter 3:1-15)

11. Peter gives radical instructions about marriage relationships that challenged Roman culture. What aspects of these teachings challenge our modern culture?
12. For everyone (not just married people): How does verse 8 describe the Christian community? "Be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." Which of

these qualities is most challenging for you personally?

13. Read I Peter 3:15: “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.” What does it look like practically to revere Christ as Lord in the midst of difficult circumstances or relationships?

KEY TAKEAWAYS (5 mins)

- We are God’s possession, not the other way around. Our identity is completely transformed in Christ.
- Goodness and submission are powerful weapons in spiritual warfare; we overcome evil by doing good.
- Christian freedom means being free to do as we ought, not as we like, It’s the freedom to serve.
- Christ is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls—constantly vigilant, personally invested, lovingly authoritative, and securing our preservation.
- Our behavior speaks louder than our words. We are living advertisements for Christianity.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose at least one of these to practice this week:

- **Embrace Your Conversion:** Identify one area of your “old life” that you’re still holding onto. Take a specific step to surrender it to Christ this week.
- **Practice Strategic Goodness:** Think of someone who has wronged you or been difficult. Do something intentionally good for them this week without expecting anything in return.
- **Examine Your Attitude Toward Authority:** Whether at work, in government, or in relationships-- check your heart. Are you operating from submission and trust in God, or from a spirit of control? Pray specifically about one relationship where you struggle with this.
- **Focus on Inner Beauty:** Spend less time this week on outward concerns (social media, appearance, status) and more time developing “the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit” through prayer, worship, and Scripture.
- **Revere Christ as Lord:** When faced with a difficult situation this week, pause and consciously acknowledge Christ as the Overseer of your soul before responding. How does this change your perspective?

Accountability Question:

- Who is this group can you share your chosen challenge with and check in with during the week.

CLOSING PRAYER

- Share one thing God spoke to you through this discussion.
- Pray for each other, specifically asking God to help you live in his possession and overcome evil with good.
- Pray for anyone in the group facing persecution, difficulty at work, or challenging relationships.