1 Peter 2:4-10

Men of Grace

11/11/08

Elect

- Received mercy
- Born again to a living hope
- An inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept in heaven
- Guarded by God's power
- You Rejoice

Exiles

- You have been grieved by various trials
- Sojourners and exiles

4 Werses 4-5: Our Identity

"A Spiritual House"

- In Him you are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (Eph. 2:22)
- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? (1 Cor. 6:19)

"A Holy Priesthood"

5 Verses 4-5: Our Purpose: to offer spiritual sacrifices

Ourselves/our bodies

■ "By the mercies of God, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship (Ro. 12:1)"

Our thanks and praise

■ "Continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to his name (Hb 13:15)"

Acts of love and service

- "I received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God (Ph. 4:18)"
- "Do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hb 13:16)."

6 Verses 6-8: Jesus, the Old Testament Stone

■ Isaiah 28:16

- Stone = a new work God is doing
- A source of honor for those who believe
- But to those who disbelieve . . .
- Psalm 118:22
 - Stone = Israel's King
- **Isaiah 8:14**

Stone = Yahweh Himself

- 8 Verses 9-10: Our Identity
 - A chosen race
 - A royal priesthood
 - A holy nation
 - A people for his own possession
 - Once you were not a people, now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, now you have received mercy
- 9 Werses 9-10: Our Identity

Exodus 19:6-6: Mt. Sinai

"You shall be my treasured possession among all peoples. . . And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"

Isaiah 43:20-21: Babylon

"the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise"

11 Verses 9-10: Our Purpose

"To proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

12 Summary

<u>I. v. 4-5</u>

Our identity: A spiritual house, a holy priesthood

Our Purpose: to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

II. V. 9-10

Our identity: chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's possession

Our purpose: to declare the excellencies of him who called us

III. v. 6-8

Jesus Christ: the living stone, the elect exile Everything depends on our response to him

- 13 Discussion Questions
 - 1. What does God's church in OC most need today: a recovery of its identity as God's **elect**, or a recover of its identity as **exiles** in the world? Defend your answer.
 - 2. As one of many "living stones," what specific and unique roles do you think God has given you within this "spiritual house" and "holy priesthood?"
 - 3. When was the last time you "proclaimed the excellencies of God" to the world in an explicit way? What happened?

I Peter 2:4-10

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: II. "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, whoever believes in him will not be put to shame (Isa. 28:16)." ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone (Ps. 118:22)," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense (Isa. 8:14)." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. III. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, you are God's people; but now once you had not received mercy,

but now

you have received mercy.