

## **Living Sold Out, Part I**

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. – I Peter 2:9 (HCSB)*

What does it mean to be a Christ-follower? Depending on who you talk to, it could mean different things to different people. For some, being a Christ-follower means they are not Muslim or Buddhist or Hindu or atheist or agnostic. For others, it's equated with their spiritual standing stemming from a childhood experience, such as baptism or the completion of a confirmation class. And still others equate being a Christ-follower with doing good deeds like serving the needy or being generous with their resources. You also have those who believe that being a Christ-follower means going to church or taking a stand on certain social & political issues. According to Peter's words here, none of those define us as God's people.

This verse points back to Exodus 19 where God had promised these privileges to the nation of Israel, if they would obey Him. And biblically speaking, to love God is to obey. This is what it looks like to love God as a Christ-follower:

**I. Chosen Race** = As Christ-followers, we're not an earthly race with common ancestry and distinct physical characteristics. We are a heavenly people with a divine parentage and spiritual resemblances.

**P2R (Point 2 Remember #1):** **To live sold out to Christ, you've got to remember that there's something distinctly different about you.**

I'm not talking about matters of preference; I'm talking about matters of conviction. This isn't a statement of elitism or "*I'm better than you*". Chosen means "on purpose". God chose you. Not happenstance. Not coincidental. Your being here on Planet Earth signifies God chose you. You're not here by mistake, and everything He does serves a purpose. In Deuteronomy 7:8, the bible declares the following: "*The LORD loves you... That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand.*" To be chosen by God is to be loved by God. And not only are we loved by God, but in being loved by God we lead others to Him.

## ***LIFE Huddle:*** *Getting together to talk through issues of life*

**II. Royal Priesthood** = For an audience that was primarily Jewish, this statement would've stood out for sure. In the Old Testament, the monarchy (royalty) & the priesthood were strictly separated. The king ruled Israel and fought the battles of the Lord. The priests were the only ones who could approach God at the temple, offer sacrifices & intercede for the people. Under the banner of Christ, these 2 distinct roles are now seen as one.

The royal priesthood are those who worship God & share their faith. The Latin word for priest means "bridge". As we worship God & share with others what He means to us, we become bridge builders between God & man; between culture & Christ.

A few thoughts on worship & sharing your faith, as God's royal priesthood:

**A. Worship:** Jesus gave only two requirements for true worship: "in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Thus, the essential ingredient necessary for true worship is an honest desire to encounter God. So with that in mind: **a) *There's no exclusive way of worship.*** Anything you do, unto the Glory of God, that's worship. **b) *Worshipping God is a great way to keep your ego in check.*** Why? Because true worship takes your attention off you, and puts it on Him.

**B. Sharing Your Faith:** The #1 reason given for people not sharing their faith is fear: fear of being rejected, fear of sounding silly, fear of being perceived as intolerant. But I suspect the fear is much deeper than that. I submit to you that most of the fear stems from not being fully convinced that Christ is who He says He is. If you're indeed a Christ-follower, be reminded today that as a royal priest, fear is normal & if they reject you for sharing your faith, they're not really rejecting you...they're rejecting Him. We're merely bridge builders between God & others. We're not responsible for making people cross the bridge.

***P2R (Point 2 Remember #2):*** To live sold out to Christ, you've got to remember that if you don't believe the truth God says about you, you'll embrace the lies others believe about you.