

THE CONGREGATION: GOD'S PEOPLE

1 PETER 2:9-10

INTRODUCTION

We are a gospel-centered community who loves God and others by:

- *Worshipping Him.*
- *Proclaiming His Word.*
- *Sharing His Gospel.*
- *Equipping His People.*

1A. THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH. (1 PETER 2:9-10)

1B. We are a chosen race. (2:9a)

This speaks of the diversity and unity of the church. (Revelation 7:9)

This speaks God's selection of His people. (Ephesians 1:3-5; John 15:16)

John MacArthur shares Four truths about God's choosing us.

1. Because election is all of God it destroys our pride, we can do nothing to earn God's grace.
2. Because election is all of God's grace it magnifies God's glory.
3. Because God set his love on us while we were sinners, we in turn are to be passionate to glorify Him by our obedience and holy lives.
4. Because our election is eternal and unchangeable, we have great peace, joy and hope even in times of great uncertainty.¹

2B. We are a royal priesthood (2:9b)

- Every believer has the right, authority, and responsibility to read and interpret Scripture. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Every believer has direct access to God through Christ. (1 Timothy 2:5)
- Every believer is ultimately responsible to God for His spiritual wellbeing. (Romans 14:11-12)

3B. We are a holy nation (2:9c)

- This holiness is Positional - We have been set aside by God in Christ. (Romans 8:1-2)
- This holiness is Progressive - We are being sanctified by God. (Philippians 2:12-13)

¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., [1 Peter](#), MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004), 124–125.

4B. We are God's special people. (2:9d-10)

- We have been purchased by God. (2:9d; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Titus 2:14))
- We have been called by God. (2:9e; Colossians 1:13-14))
- We have received God's mercy. (2:10b)

5B. We are proclaimers the excellences of Christ. (2:9b)

2A. THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH (MATTHEW 16:13-19; 18:15-20).

1B. The keys and the apostles (Matthew 16:13-19)

2B. The keys and the local church (Matthew 18:15-20)

3B. How did the early church exercise its authority?

- The choosing and affirming of deacons and elders. (Acts 6:3-6; 15:22; 1 Corinthians 16:3)
- The choosing and commissioning of missionaries. (Acts 13:1-3)
- The protection of the gospel message. (Acts 15:1-35; Galatians 1:7-8; 2 Timothy 4:3)
- The implementation of corrective church discipline (1 Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1)
- The collection and distribution of monies for the relief of the poor. (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9)
- The administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:20-26)

HOW DO THE FOUR OFFICES WORK TOGETHER?

Christ through His Word and Spirit reveal His mission for to His church.

The church chooses elders who, through prayer and under the authority of the Word lead the church to obey Christ's revealed mission for His church.

The church chooses deacons who through prayer and under the authority of the Word assist the elders to facilitate obedience to Christ's mission for His church.

The congregation through prayer and under the authority of Word affirm and fulfill Christ's mission for His church as they are led by elders and served by deacons.