

CALLED TO BE DIFFERENT

Teaching Series
from
1 Peter



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 12 February 2023

1. What struck you most from the teaching on Sunday?

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.

2. What does it mean for us in our everyday lives to live out our calling as 'royal priests'?

Please read 1 Peter 3.8-9 (see also Deuteronomy 28.1-2 and Psalm 119.1-2)

Christopher Wright says, "Obedience (not perfection) is the means of living within the sphere of God's blessing – and enjoying it. Obedience is never the means of earning or deserving God's blessing – but our obedience is necessary in order for us to go on enjoying the blessing of our relationship with God." Disobedience is a blessing buster.

3. There are two ways to relate to people – the way of the world and the way of God. What are the implications for Christians if they try to mix and match?

Please read 1 Peter 3.10-12 (which is Peter quoting Psalm 34.12-16)

4. What strikes you about the repeated use of the word 'must' (in the NIV version) in verses 10-11?

The Contemporary English Version translates these verses like this, "10 As the Scriptures say "Do you really love life? Do you want to be happy? Then stop saying cruel things and quit telling lies. 11 Give up your evil ways and do right by God. Find and follow His way of peace."

5. Which of the relationship requirements (mentioned in verses 8-11) do you struggle with most, and need most prayer support (and accountability support) for?
6. With reference to verses 9 and 12, why is our obedience to God's way for doing relationships linked to His blessing on our lives (see also Matthew 5.1-14)?

Please read 1 Peter 3.13-15a and 1 Peter 4.1-6

7. How does this compare with Deuteronomy 30.19-20 for the people of Israel?

Deuteronomy comes to its climax with a powerful appeal to Israel to "Choose Life", that is to sustain their enjoyment of God's blessing (in which they already stood by God's grace). They could do this only by living in a loving, trusting, and obedient relationship with their God. As can we – Choose Life!