

## Reflection Questions: 1 Peter 2.9-10

For the message, "A Nation Set Apart" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on November 8, 2020

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** 1 Peter 2:9-10

**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, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**A summary of the message:** The Apostle Peter writes to refugee Christians who had fled from persecution. In this passage, he reminds them that they are God's holy nation—a nation set apart to declare a politically charged message the Good News of God's Kingdom: Jesus is Lord!

### **Bottom Line:**

- The Church of Jesus Christ is a trans-national, international nation set apart for the sake of all nations, a multicultural people set apart for the sake of all peoples.
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### **QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- If you were among the early followers of Jesus who had to flee for your lives because of persecution and were now living as refugees, how do you think these words should bolster your faith? What questions might it present to you given your new situation?
- Peter uses a famous description of God's people that Moses had led out of political slavery in Egypt and now applies them to these persecuted Christians (chosen race, royal priesthood, a chosen nation, cf, Exodus 19:5-6). How might this serve as a reminder of their true identity when their world had been turned upside down?
- How does this text help us to keep our identities as Christians primary, and our identities as Americans second? When we forget this, what wrong thinking or ways of relating to others or ways of viewing our world take pride of place?

## 2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- In the message, the pastor referred to this quote from author Scott Sauls: "If I feel more of a kindred solidarity with those who share my politics but not my faith than I feel with those who share my faith but not my politics, what does it say about me?" Discuss.
- Bonus Question: What is the central ethical command that Jesus left his followers? Cf John 13:33-34. How should this central ethic govern our political discussions within the church, especially with those for whom we might have severe disagreements (such as Simon the Zealot surely have had with Matthew the Tax Collector on Jesus' team of disciples, and vice versa)?

## 3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- As followers of Jesus, our primary calling is to testify to the fact that there is another king—Jesus (cf. Acts 17:7-8). He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and the Savior of the world. Do you think Christians in American are known for this first and foremost, or do you think we are more known for our politics?

## CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

## PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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