

Bible Study and Discussion Questions

1 Peter 2:9-12

(week of Sept. 27, 2015)

Questions for Study and Understanding

1. Read the opening section of Peter's letter in 1:1-12. What can we understand about the situation Peter is addressing through this letter?
2. What's happening before and after our passage that helps us understand the general context of 2:9-12?
3. How does Peter describe the church's identity in vv. 9-12? What Old Testament passages is he alluding to? (esp. in vv. 9-10; check your Bible's cross references or footnotes)
4. How is Peter able to apply descriptions of ancient Israel's covenant relationship with God to the church's identity today? (see 1:17-21; 2:4-5)
5. How does Peter describe our purpose in v. 9? What do you think he's talking about?
6. According to vv. 11-12, what will it take for the church to live out their identity and purpose in this fallen world?

Questions for Reflection and Application

7. How does your sense of identity line up with what we learned in question 3?
8. In what ways do we feel the strangeness of our faith as we interact with the culture around us?
9. Thinking of the three common ways immigrant communities cope with being strangers (walling oneself off in separation; complete assimilation to host culture; retaining best elements of each), in what ways does the church often wall itself off? In what ways is it tempted to completely assimilate?

10. Which of these three options do you feel more prone to personally?

11. What do you think the risks of an “engaged alienation” are today (both within and outside the church)?

12. If someone came to you seeking guidance in how to navigate a sensitive cultural topic, how would you help them address it in light of this passage?

13. Are there specific ways might we obey or apply the message of this passage as a church, or as a home group, or personally?