

God's Peculiar People

I. Introduction

- A. Part of the Lord's purpose in giving Himself for us was to "purify unto himself a peculiar people." Consider some things Scripture teaches related to this theme. **Titus 2:14**

II. Meaning of "Peculiar"

- A. The phrase rendered "a peculiar people" by the KJV can also be rendered "his own special people" (NKJV), or "a people for his own possession" (ASV / WEB / ESV). This sheds light on the biblical concept of what it means to be "peculiar."
- B. In the Mosaic dispensation, the physical nation of Israel was God's purchased possession, chosen to be set apart from all other nations. Today, this privilege is granted to the church. **Deuteronomy 14:2; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 6:20**

III. Peculiar Perspective

- A. When Christians recognize whose we are, it brings a peculiar perspective to life. The faithful Christian recognizes that we are not our own, and thus chooses to surrender all to God. **Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:1-2**

IV. Peculiar Aim

- A. Because of this peculiar perspective on life, those who serve God faithfully make it their aim to glorify and please Him. While the world tends to focus on doing what fits one's *own* will for life, the faithful Christian centers his or her life on pleasing God by following *His* will. **1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:9**

V. Peculiar Character

- A. When we take to heart who we belong to and make it our aim in life to please Him, we'll develop a character that is peculiar. While the world displays selfishness, envy, and greed, the faithful Christian is full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control, compassion, and gratitude. **Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12-15**

VI. Peculiar Speech

- A. This peculiar character yields peculiar speech. For instance, while the world is given to filthy language, like cursing, those who belong to God as part of His special possession speak words that build up. **Colossians 3:8**
- B. While the world sees "little white lies" as acceptable, the faithful Christian always speaks the truth. **Colossians 3:9**
- C. While gossip is widespread in the world around us, such will not be true of us if we remember who we belong to. **Romans 1:29-30**

VII. Peculiar Conduct

- A. The peculiarity of those who surrender all to God extends to our conduct. Such peculiarity seems "strange" to those of the world. This is fitting when we consider that the world is not God's special people, but Christians are. **1 Peter 4:3-4; Ephesians 5:22-25; Matthew 19:6, 9**

VIII. Peculiar Values

- A. Not only does the one who belongs to God refrain from engaging in the conduct of sin, but we should also have an *abhorrence* of sin, adopting the attitude toward sin of the One who's purchased us to be His peculiar people. **Romans 12:9**