

FAMILY PORTRAITS: Singleness and the Church

Rick Weber · 4/2/2024 · 1 Peter 2:9-12

1 Peter 2:9-12, 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ***10*** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ***11*** Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ***12*** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Who we are as the Church:

WE ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE.

WE ARE A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION.

WE ARE A PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD

WE HAVE ONE CAUSE.

I Corinthians 7: Paul on singleness:

- **Is viewed as a gift.** (7)
- **Is good.** (8)
- **May be God's place for you now.** (17,20)
- **Is not right or wrong.** (25)
- **Can be an opportunity.** (32-35)

Challenges:

- **Financial**
- **Social/Emotional**
- **Sexual**
- **Spiritual**

Each of us must work toward contentment:

1 Timothy 6:6-8, "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content."

Each of us must pursue holiness:

1 Peter 1:15-16, "Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (NIV)

"As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, "I am holy; you be holy." (MSG)

Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.