Defining Qualities of God's People
A Study of 1 Peter

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Key Truth: Since we are God's Holy People, we should use our words and actions to shine the light of Christ's glory and excellence into a dark world.

Christians should realize that by virtue of our being in Christ and being regenerated, we are not like the world. That difference is sometimes offensive to outsiders. We are not called to act in an offensive or anti-social way. However, we should remember that as the people of God, we are marked by the presence of Jesus Christ. That reality carries its own visible scars. Because we have Christ (the rock of offense, v. 8), the world may consider us offensive and somewhat of a stumbling stone. But this, at least in God's eyes, is a mark of excellence.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Peter 2:9-12** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled **"Chosen Defining Qualities of God's People."**

DIG IN

1. **Excellent Identity.** (1 Peter 2:9a & 10)

   Read v. 9: Describe each of the four marks of excellence stated in this verse.

Which mark of excellence stands out to you and why? Is there a mark that you find more difficult to comprehend than others? Why?

2. **Excellent Purpose.** (1 Peter 2:9b)

Describe some of the excellencies of Christ that we are called to proclaim. In what ways can we proclaim them to those living in a dark world?

In what ways do we often resort to proclaiming our own excellencies rather than Christs? In what ways does this hinder our mission?

3. **Excellent Conduct.** (1 Peter 2:11-12)

According to verse 11, what does Peter instruct us to avoid (see also 2:1)? What are some present-day examples of these kinds of things?

According to verse 12, what should characterize our conduct?

In what ways do unbelievers speak against us as evildoers (v. 12)?

In what ways do you think our good conduct would cause the unsaved to glorify God?

DO

In what ways will you personally put what you have learned through this sermon into practice this week?

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