

The People Who Choose God?

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **September 04, 2022**



We have been talking about the people of God, and in this study, specifically about people who choose God. Now, there are many things that bind people together, but all those points of identification are secondary to being the people of God. And there is not a designation more significant than inclusion God's people, which is only defined by a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Truthfully, hyphenating your Christianity is idolatry.

So, the question before us is *are we willing to be a people who choose God as our primary identification?*

I. THE PEOPLE OF GOD

1 Peter 2:10 *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.*

A. Abram and His Descendants

Genesis 12:1–3 ¹ *The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ² "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Romans 9:4–5 ⁴ *the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.*

B. Learn to be Godly (Holiness/Purity)

Leviticus 11:45 *I am the Lord who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.*

1 Peter 1:15–16 ¹⁵ *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

Malachi 3:9 *You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me.*

Isaiah 8:11–13 ¹¹ *The Lord spoke to me with his strong hand upon me, **warning me not to follow the way of this people.** He said: ¹² "Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. ¹³ The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread..."*

Isaiah 9:16 *Those who guide this people mislead them, and those who are guided are led astray.*

1 Corinthians 12:18–21 ¹⁸ *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"*

1 Corinthians 12:26–27 ²⁶ *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

1. What defines your identity?
2. How does your understanding of being a "people of God" influence your daily walk with the Lord?
3. What are some practical ways you can pursue holiness in all areas of your life? What changes would that bring about in your behaviors?

II. THE POWER OF OBEDIENCE

Chosen is Incomplete

Chosen Reflects God's Initiative

God Chose to Give You a Free Will

Obedience is Our Response to God

Obedience/Disobedience

God Chose Israel, Yet They Forfeited Much!

God has Chosen You, What are You Neglecting?

A. God's Chosen People

Deuteronomy 10:15 *Yet the Lord set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today.*

Colossians 3:12 *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

B. No Place for Pride

1 Corinthians 1:26–29 ²⁶ *Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.*

C. Lessons in Obedience

1 Kings 13:4–10 ⁴ *When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back. ⁵ Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the Lord. ⁶ Then the king said to the man of God, "Intercede with the Lord your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored."*

So the man of God interceded with the Lord, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before. ⁷ The king said to the man of God, "Come home with me for a meal, and I will give you a gift." ⁸ But the man of God answered the king, "Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here. ⁹ For I was commanded by the word of the Lord: 'You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.' " ¹⁰ So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel.

1 Kings 14:22 ***Judah did evil in the eyes of the Lord.*** *By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done.*

1 Kings 15:3 ***He committed all the sins his father had done before him; his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his forefather had been.***

D. The Assignment of Obedience Still Stands

Hebrews 5:8 *Son though he was, **he learned obedience** from what he suffered ...*

Philippians 2:8–9 ⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself **by becoming obedient** to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name ...*

4. In what ways have life's distractions, fears, or discouragements caused you to resist obedience to God?
5. Do you find it harder to be obedient to God's Word when things are going well or when things are difficult?
6. How would you define true repentance from disobedience?

Prayer—An Invitation Toward Repentance & Obedience

Father, if there is any place in my life where I have chosen willful disobedience, I humbly repent and ask You for mercy and forgiveness. I choose to live a life of obedience to You. I lay those things down and put them as the foot of the cross. Holy Spirit, if there is anything in me that diminishes what God has created me for and called me to, help me to see it so I might lay it down. I choose to honor the Lord. I choose holiness, purity, and to walk uprightly with integrity. Help me, Lord. Awaken me and grant me an understanding heart, with ears that can hear and eyes that can see. Thank You for Your forgiveness and a new beginning. In Jesus' name, amen.