

Sermon ~ November 13, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit (132nd Church Anniversary)

Text: I Peter 2: 9 (vss. 1-9)

Title: "Who We Are!"

This speaks of our *Identity!* **WHO** and What *defines* us! What *matters* to us!

"Who We Are!"

The CHURCH: GOD'S People and Possession!

- **One BODY** – The **BODY of CHRIST!** [of which each *born-again* believer is a model for the many local Bodies (**CHURCH**) across this world]
- **One SPIRIT**—The **HOLY SPIRIT!** [**HE** *indwells* every *born-again* believer]
- **One HOPE** – **JESUS** *is* Coming Again!
- **One LORD** – The **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**
- **One FAITH** – *One* settled **Body of Truth**—The **Bible! The WORD of GOD!** [we may *differ* in practices because of "*us*," but this **WORD** is *settled!* "Forever, O **LORD, THY WORD** *is* settled in heaven." Psalm 199: 89]
- **One Baptism** – The **Baptism of The HOLY SPIRIT!**
- **One GOD and FATHER** – over all; working through all and in all! That is, *born-again* believers!

One of the painful facts of life is that *the people of GOD* do not always get along with each other (*teeth and tongue; jar and bite*). We would like to think that those who walk in '*hope*' and grow in '*holiness*' would be able to live in *harmony*, BUT...

Notice verse 1 begins with the adverb, "wherefore." It connects with vss. 23-25 of chapter 1.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by The WORD of GOD, which liveth and abideth for ever."

-For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

-But The WORD of The LORD endureth for ever. And this is **The WORD** which by The Gospel is preached unto you."

'Wherefore,' *for that cause; that reason...* in mire words, Grow-Up!

V. 1, "...lay aside..." Strip-off those 'soiled clothes.'

Malice, kakia, that *wicked* disposition: *your* enjoying watch of others failure; *your* controlling issues; *your* habit of dishonestly; *your* manipulative ways; *your* double living and life without boundaries.

All quile-deceit. *Dolos*, trickery. Using bait to pull another in. Pretender. Trapper.

Hypocrisy. Always acting the part by concealing the real motives.

Envious. Feelings that sour due to the influence of *sin*.

Gossip. *Evil* speaking of others. *Gossip* is always the fruit of an *envious heart*. Usually takes place when the *victim* isn't around to defend him or herself. Most will admit it's wrong but enjoys it so, they promise I want tell, and they lean in to hear and then run to tell it—adding their bit!

Who We Are!

1. We Are Stones in the same Building.

-- *One* SAVIOR – JESUS CHRIST!

-- *One* SPIRITual Building—The CHURCH!

-- JESUS CHRIST is The CHIEF-CONERSTONE, that binds all the other *stones* together.

Making The CHURCH!

--JESUS *is* The LIVING STONE because HE was *raised* from ‘the dead’ in Victory!

HE *is* The Chosen Stone of The FATHER! HE *is* The Precious—Yet, rejected!

The real cause of *rejection* is ‘refusal’ to “submit” to The WORD of GOD—JESUS CHRIST!

[So long as a ‘brick’ lies by itself, it is useless; it becomes of use only when incorporated into The Building—The CHURCH!

2. We Are *Priest* in the same Temple.

-- Our MEDIATOR *is* JESUS CHRIST (I Timothy 2: 5)

-- We have *access* to our FATHER’ Throne. (Hebrews 4: 14, 15)

-- We have the *privilege* of *offering spiritual sacrifices*—*living sacrifices*: our *bodies*, our *praises*, our *services*, our *good works*, our *time*, *talents*, and *treasures*. We are not ashamed of JESUS!

3. We Are *Citizens* of the same Nation.

-- *Chosen generation* – by GOD’S GRACE!

-- *Holy Nation* – *set apart* exclusively to GOD. In GOD’S KINGdom.

--We are ‘*the people of GOD!*’ *Purchased* by The Blood of JESUS with *one* BIG responsibility—
“To PRAISE GOD!” *Show forth, to tell out, to advertise, to proclaim...*

Real, Real, JESUS *is* Real to me!

Ooooh, Yes, HE gives me Victory!

So many people doubt HIM. I can’t live without HIM!

That is why I Love HIM so. Cuz, JESUS *is* Real to me!!!