

# **“CHANGED”**

## ***Living-Out Our Identity In Christ***

### **1 Peter 2:9 New Living Translation (NLT)**

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, *a holy nation*, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

- Continuing our Series, “Finding Our Identity In Christ”
- Today: “Changed – *Living-Out* Our Identity In Christ!

### **We are a HOLY Nation:**

#### **Definition:**

**To be HOLY means to be set apart, to be dedicated to God and for His purposes.**

- The implications of being God’s holy nation is that we are to be different from the rest of the world (not only outwardly, but inwardly as well)
- We are set apart for His Purposes –
  - There is a reason to be holy
  - We have a purpose in the plan of God and His Kingdom that must be fulfilled

#### **NOTE:**

**WE ARE NOT MADE HOLY BY GOD JUST TO BE ELEGIBLE TO ENTER INTO HEAVEN.  
WE ARE HOLY TO BE USED BY GOD TO ESTABLISH, EXTEND AND DEMONSTRATE HIS KINGDOM RULE *ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.***

### **I. WE ARE A CHANGED NATION:**

#### **Natural Birth:**

- This is a BEGINNING, a start
- Growth and development must follow this new beginning
- Someone who has never existed before
- Maturity: the goal of growth and development is to become “finished”
- Usually, we’ll look like our parents and resemble them and their ways

#### **Spiritual New Birth:**

- This is also a new BEGINNING
- Growth and development must occur afterwards
- This is someone who also never existed before

- Maturity will result in us looking just like our Father/Jesus!

### **John 3:7 New Living Translation (NLT)**

So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'

### **John 1:12-13 New Living Translation (NLT)**

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.<sup>13</sup> ***They are reborn***—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but ***a birth that comes from God.***

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 New Living Translation (NLT)**

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ ***has become a new person.*** The old life is gone; ***a new life has begun!***

#### **NOTE:**

**We are not to refer to ourselves as “sinners” any longer, but as SONS and DAUGHTERS of the Living God! We are not sinners saved by grace! We are SONS AND DAUGHTERS born of the Spirit of God to live out a brand new life free from the chains and influences of sin and death!**

**We are SONS and DAUGHTERS; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ!**

**Our NEW, INTERNAL NATURE is to be lived-out and expressed in the way we live, think, act and influence the people and the world around us!**

## **II. WE MUST LIVE-OUT A CHANGED LIFE**

### **Illustration: Caterpillar to Butterfly**

- From crawling to flying
- From eating leaves to nectar
- From living on the ground to living in the air

#### **A “Changed” Life:**

- From living a “natural” lifestyle according to the dictates of the flesh to living a life “above” the natural in another realm
- New appetite for the things of the Spirit to live (every rhema that proceeds out of the mouth of God)
- From living from a grounded perspective to living from our being seated in heavenly places in Christ

#### **NOTE:**

**If you saw a caterpillar trying to live like a butterfly, or a butterfly trying to still live like a caterpillar, you'd ask “What is wrong with this picture?”**

## **Living a CHANGED life is living a life of TRANSFORMATION:**

### **The Transfiguration**

#### **Matthew 17:1-2 New Living Translation (NLT)**

Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. <sup>2</sup> As the men watched, *Jesus' appearance was transformed* so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.

#### **Romans 12:2 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God *transform you* into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect (Mature or complete).

#### **NOTE:**

**The words "Transfigured" and "Transformed" is the SAME WORD!**

**"Metamorphis" = changing form in keeping with an inner reality**

**Just as the Inner Nature of Jesus shined through His natural being; so must our NEW INNER NATURE shine through ours! When we live in such a way that this process is completed, we'll look like Jesus!**

#### **Ephesians 4:13 New Living Translation (NLT)**

This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that *we will be mature in the Lord*, measuring up to the *full and complete standard of Christ*.

### **III. HOW TO LIVE A TRANFIGURED LIFE:**

#### **A WHOLE Burnt Offering:**

- This was an offering of ENTIRE CONSECRATION
- It represented the life of the sacrificer; stating that he was committing his entire life to the Lord
- Priest had two FLESHHOOKS at the Altar, which he used to arrange the pieces of the sacrifice, as well as KEEP ANY FROM FALLING OFF THE ALTAR!

#### **NOTE:**

**The fleshhooks represent the SPIRIT and the WORD of God. We depend on the Spirit of God and the Word of God to keep our entire lives sacrificed to the Lord, AND AVAILABLE TO HIM as we live-out a transfigured lifestyle!**

**We need to be SPIRIT-GUIDED and WORD-INSPIRED.**

## **A New Testament Illustration of a transformed lifestyle:**

### **Parable of the Ten Virgins**

- Ten virgins awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom
- Five were wise, five were foolish
- They ALL slumbered while they were waiting
- They all shared the same condition at the beginning; but they didn't share the same ending
- Five foolish neglected to take oil with them and their lamps went out.
- Five wise had taken extra oil in case they needed it; and they did.

### **Matthew 25:3-4 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took (extra) oil in their vessels with their lamps.

### **Matthew 25:7-9 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins ***arose and trimmed their lamps.*** <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

## **STEPS TO TAKE: TWO-STEP PROCESS**

### **STEP 1: they "arose"**

- In Aramaic, it pictures a protective hedge and the sun on the horizon.
- It signifies a growing or diminishing light in a protected environment
- Question: Is the light in you growing or diminishing?
- Answer: Be sure to safeguard your life in the Lord in such a way that you are always Growing brighter and brighter until he returns for his bride!

### **STEP 2: They "trimmed" their lamps**

- In Aramaic, it signifies a spiritual man as one who establishes himself, digging in the word; in a light that is growing brighter and brighter; which becomes God's spiritual signature and mark on his life.
- **Trim** = to set in order, to beautify and to make compellingly attractive.

- **Process:** to trim off the charred parts of the wick, so that regardless of how much oil is in the lamp, **the fire doesn't go out**

**NOTE:**

**The wise virgins awoke, were alert and were responsibly vigilant to be sure they were ready to meet the Bridegroom when He arrived.**

**CONCLUSION:**

**Being a Holy Nation means (Aramaic):**

**Being yoked to the headship of the Father and growing increasingly like Him as expressed through the actions of a life of worship!**

**Therefore, be WATCHFUL; be filled with the Word and Spirit to keep the fire burning ever so brightly as we live as living sacrifices, which is our spiritual worship to Him!**

**1 Peter 1:15 New Living Translation (NLT)**

**But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.**

**He made us holy; and we must BE holy as our Father in heaven is holy**