

# God Our Savior: Alien to Citizen

1 Peter 2:9-12

As citizens of God's Kingdom living in this world, we live lives of competing allegiances. Although we desire to satisfy our sinful nature with the things of the earth, we know that only Jesus and obedience to him will truly satisfy us. In other words, we abstain from worldly pleasures for the sake of loving and serving others.

## Application

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1. You are a chosen people, set apart for God. How are you or how are you not living in that identity? What other identities do you live in other than as a citizen of the Kingdom of God?
2. Because of our relationship with God as his "very own possession," we have a responsibility to show others the goodness of God. As a citizen of Heaven, how can you own God's cause for other people in this world?
3. Many of us are hiding sin out of pride and self-righteousness, believing the lie that our sin is our problem. Sin, shame, and separation from God are no longer our problems and can be openly shared with others because of what Jesus did for us. Our issue is self-righteousness. How does this resonate with you? How might you be acting self-righteous?
4. God has given us all good things for our enjoyment, but this indulgence becomes sinful when we use our freedom as an opportunity to satisfy our sinful nature. Is there anything of this world that you are building your life on or using to satisfy your soul? What does your citizenship in Heaven change about how you exercise your freedom? From what worldly desire could you abstain in order to love and serve others?
5. We have a lot of opportunities to model what it looks like to live in a Kingdom where worldly, temporary delights don't hold weight in our lives. Where do you have an opportunity to live a beautiful life that stands out among others? (e.g. how you handle success, injustice, failure, your children's success, rejection, suffering, etc.)

## Key Points

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- The nature of our citizenship in Heaven means we are: chosen people (Romans 9), royal priests, a holy nation, and God's very own possession.
- God calls people from what they are doing to what he is doing.
- Part of being a citizen in God's Kingdom is owning the fact that you do not have a right to be there.
- Many of us hide our sin out of pride and self-righteousness, believing the lie that we can be good enough. However, our biggest problem is our self-righteous which makes us unwilling to expose ourselves for who we are. That self-righteousness is what will keep us from coming to Jesus, not our sin.
- God has given us all good things for our enjoyment, but this indulgence becomes sinful when we use our freedom as an opportunity to satisfy our sinful nature instead of using our freedom for love.
- As citizens of God's Kingdom we live a life of abstinence from worldly pleasures.
- We have to live our lives with care and intentionality—living beautiful lives among unbelieving people.

## Other Scripture References

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[Ephesians 2:3](#)

[Galatians 5:13](#)

[Romans 9](#)

[Exodus 19:6](#)

[Exodus 19:5](#)