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DIFFERENT

Different Calling in a Dark World

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[TITLE SLIDE:]

Studying 1 Peter....

- Christians under tremendous persecution
- So Peter wrote this letter to Remind Believers.....
 - *"You are Different..."*
 - *"This World is NOT your home... don't live for it only"*

CHURCH this message is for us today

- God is going to call YOU today to **DO Something Different**
-

Studying 1 Peter see Peter use the same type of word **OVER & OVER!!!**

- **CALLING CALL CALLED**
- Whenever you recognized you have been called to do something.....
 - It Emboldens, Encourages, and Empowers you

EXAMPLE: (

When We Talking About Calling People ask.....

- "What am **I** called to do?" / "What does God want **me** to do?"
- TODAY want to talk about 3 Different types of Callings.....



1st

ETERNAL CALL TO JESUS

- Holy Spirit is calling people all over world to Jesus.... He is the only way
- Creating spiritual Hunger for spiritual things
- Wooing and Winning people
- **It's God's will that NO ONE SHOULD PERISH!**
- **God wants EVERYONE to say YES to His Eternal Calling**

Peter knew what it is like to be called by Jesus...

(Story of Jesus & Peter in Luke 5)

- Peter recognized this was no ordinary man
- Jesus CALLED PETER

***"...No longer fish for fish, now you will fish for men.
Come and FOLLOW ME!"***

- Peter was called out of where he was to become Follower Jesus
- Peter knew He was called out of his OWN DESIRES....
 - We are to leave our OWN DESIRES and....
 - Devote our lives to Follow Jesus

1st **There is an Eternal Call to Follow Jesus**



2nd type of calling / people get excited about this..

TEMPORARY CALL TO AN ASSIGNMENT

You might feel called to a particular role

- Called to Study Particular subject in college
- Nurse Teacher Military
- Called to go on Mission trip, feel called to different part of world
- You feel called to ask out the cute girl

2nd **There's an Temporary Call to an Assignment**



THIRD type of Calling most people overlook

DAILY CALL TO A DIFFERENT STANDARD

Your God is Calling You **DAILY** to live a different standard

When we think of Calling we think of **"THE DO"**... (*"What am I called to DO?"*)

BUT.... God STARTS with the WHO before He gets to the DO

Our God is more concerned with "WHO YOU ARE".....

Before He's concerned with WHAT YOU DO

Because if the WHO is not right.. the DO will never be right!

- God is concerned about Motives, Heart, Integrity

- **When you know WHO you are... You'll know WHAT to Do!**

REMEMBER...

Peter was writing to a group of 1st Century PERSECUTED Christians....
 who would have been **Tempted to Forget Who they were**

- They were SO HATED!
- They were completely Misunderstood
 - Superstitious / Miracles... Magicians... (Tacitus)
 - Incestuous / Holy Kiss Brothers & Sisters in Christ....
 - Cannibals / Communion... Take and eat my body
- **BEFORE** Peter tells them WHAT they should do.....
 He reminds them WHO they Actually are

- **BEFORE WE** can DO what God has called US to....
 WE must know WHO you are

Peter reminds them....



[1 Peter 2.9 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.

- chosen people - Chosen by GOD to be in His Family
- royal priests - Royal Priest..... They had tremendous respect for Priesthood
 They are ministers of God filled with His Spirit
- holy nation - Holy Nation..... Kingdom of God!

This world not their Home... something bigger!!!

- God's very own possession - God's Possession... Their bodies are NOT their own

As a result, (as a result of KNOWING who you are...) you can show others the goodness of God,
(When you know who you are you'll know what to do) for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

- We've been Called / Chosen / Invited - OUT of Darkness
- Our lives been Transformed... Different
- Old is gone... all things New

When you know WHO you are... Recognize what you're CALLED to DO

TODAY...

Most DON'T think we're Superstitious / Incestuous / Cannibals

Instead... Self-Righteous / Judgmental / Intolerant Bigots

- Peter says..... This is your Different Daily Calling to

REPRESENT Jesus to a Skeptical world



[1 Peter 2.11-12 NLT]

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" (This world is not our home) to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

Notice what Peter said.....

(... Be careful to live properly among your *unbelieving neighbors*)

- He didn't say - "First you must **convince** them to believe like you believe"

He said... **SHOW** them what we believe... by **HOW** we behave

.....Before we earn the right to be heard

SOMETIMES the best defense is the best offense....

- Treating people with LOVE,
- Treating people with RESPECT, GRACE

- To **Show** people what we believe... **BY HOW** we behave

In other words...

- "Before I tell you what I believe....

- I'm going to **SHOW** you **WHAT** I believe in **HOW** I live"

Many in this Rochester.... think those who attend THIS church.....

Self-Righteous / Judgmental / Intolerant Bigots... and more

....But we don't respond to every attack by arguing
that would be (...worldly desires that wage war against your very soul)

This town will KNOW WHO WE ARE.... by what we **DO!**

- Restoring Restrooms in Parks
- Cleaning up Apartments and sharing meals with them

- Patching up Roofs and Siding
- Cleaning up neighbor's yards
- Visiting and loving those in Nursing Homes
- Listening and Praying for people all over TOWN
 - Trunk-N-Treat
 - In Restaurants & Funeral Homes
 - Grocery Stores
- NOW... Seeking out people in the marketplaces and demonstrating the power and love of God

This is WHO we are!

- **The CHURCH doesn't exist for US... We exist for the World**

- We WON'T be known as Jesus Followers by... What we are against

but by - **Who we are for** - **What we stand for!**

Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors



[1 Peter 2.15 NLT]

It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.

- It's the way you live (not what we post).....
that silences people who DON'T KNOW BETTER

- Love ill-rationally / Give extravagantly / Serve people faithfully
- Again and Again....

Do you want to know what you are called to do???

Peter goes on to say...



[1 Peter 2.21 NLT]

For God called you to do good, (that's what you're called to do) even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you.

- Understand... there're time you will do good and suffer
- Who is Peter writing to???

- You might not get Promotion / Invited to Party / Made fun of
- But you CONTINUE to love as Jesus... right thing to do

He (Jesus) is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

Jesus WAS...

- Loving / Gentle / Kind / Full of Grace / Loved the unlovable

Jesus was NOT...

- Arrogant / Condescending / Rude / Proud / Defensive / Hateful



[1 Peter 2.22-24a NLT]

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right.

Then... Peter go further and calls us to be Different than you can imagine

- There are some people who reject God entirely....
- They do great things all the time.... very moral!

- **But Peter takes Faithfulness & Obedience to whole new abnormal level**
 - Normal is to do good to those who are good to you

- And Normal is hurt those who hurt you

CHRISTIAN.... You have a DAILY Call to live Differently

When you know who you are, you'll know what to do



[1 Peter 3.9 NLT]

*Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. **Instead**, (what do Jesus followers do?...) pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.*

- When someone ask us to go 1 mile... Jesus said "Go 2 miles"
- When ask for our Shirt.... Jacket too
- When someone curses us.... We bless them back
- When someone hates us.... We pray for them and show love

We are CALLED to something DIFFERENT

When you know who you are, you'll know what to do

UNDERSTAND.... You are on CALL

- If you're a Follower of Christ.... and you know who you are....
- You're chosen by God / Royal Priesthood / Holy Nation / Belonging to God

- Therefore you are on call....

- to LOVE when someone needs
- to GIVE / SHARE / PRAY

- This is **NOT** a TEMPORARY Calling..... It's a DAILY Calling

- God give us Eyes / Ears / Heart to care
- **When you know who you are, you'll know what to do**

- We've been CALLED out of Darkness into His Light

(VIDEO: Turn sound up)

 [VIDEO: **THE SPIRIT IS WILLING**]

 [TITLE SLIDE:]

PRAY