



## The People of God

Greg Wendschlag January 14, 2024

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*“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.” 1 Pet. 2:10*

### From beginning to end, God’s plan is to create a people.

- God created us to be a people. Gen. 2:18, 1:27-28
- God chose Abraham to be the father of the people. Gen. 12:1-2
- God established His people amid suffering Ex. 3:7-8
- God put His name upon them to distinguish them from all others. 2 Chron. 7:14
- God expanded His people to include all who will believe in Him. John 1:12
- God redeemed His people through the cross of Jesus. Eph. 2:14-16
- God commissioned His people to fulfill His redemptive purpose. Acts 1:8
- God’s covenant of love and acceptance is irrevocable. Rom. 9:25-26
- God will live with His people for eternity. Rev. 21:3; 22:21

- The people of God are distinct from all other people.

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” 1 Pet. 2:9*

- The people of God retain uniqueness without pursuing individualism.

*“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” 1 Cor. 12:12-13*

- The people of God prioritize others over self-interests.

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...” Phil. 2:3-5*

### Next Steps: Practice our LIFER behaviors

- Reach out first.
- Express joy.
- Encourage others.
- Serve someone.