

INTRODUCTION

1 Peter 2:9 says that “...*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.*” As Aaron mentioned in Sunday’s sermon, the question, “Why are you here?” is an important question to answer. We are set apart for a purpose. Do you know why you are here?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Much of the Book of Leviticus contains instructions from God to communicate the concept of “holiness/set apart” (washings, sprinklings, clean, unclean, etc.). We do not have rituals that signify being set apart like the Israelites did. Can you think of images or practices that can communicate holiness and sanctification today?
2. Read John 17:14-19. In what sense are believers in Christ “not of this world”? What is the difference between being “*not* of the world” and being “*out* of the world”?
3. Jesus prays for protection from the evil one. Who is this, and what danger does he pose? (See 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 1 Peter 5:8; and 1 John 3:10.)
4. Look up the word “sanctify” and write what it means. What does it mean to “sanctify them by the truth”? What is the “truth”?
5. Read the following verses, and write what they tell you about sanctification:

John 17:17 _____

1 Corinthians 1:30 _____

Colossians 3:1-10 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 _____

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 _____

1 Peter 1:2

Hebrews 13:12

6. Read Philippians 2:12-13. What does this verse indicate about our role in relation to our sanctification?

7. Are you sanctified by God's truth? In what ways are you making sure there is a steady stream of His Word in your lives?

APPLICATION

Take time to examine your life. Do you believe you are set apart? Do you choose to obey God over what you want to do or over what our society values? Do you submit to the Spirit as He leads? Have you discovered what you have been set apart to do? Ask God to reveal why you are here – what you are set apart to do for His Kingdom.

SCRIPTURE

“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

John 17:14-19 (NIV)