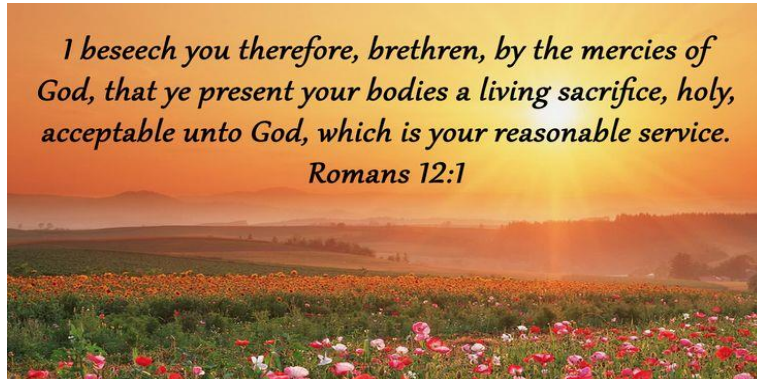


January 23, 2021

Transformed



"...you also, like living stones, are built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ..."

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 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." I Peter 2:1-12

Over the years I have come to believe that greatest human need, after the basics for survival have been satisfied, is the need to be valued; to believe that someone is choosing to care about us. I am also convinced that God designed human relationships intending that those relationships would help to satisfy that driving need within each of us.

Of course, most of us realize especially as we get older, that most, if not all, of these human relationships disappoint our need to be valued; to be chosen at one time or another. God created marriage, family, community and the church as mechanisms which to some degree will satisfy our thirst for value. Most of us would acknowledge though, that our marriages, our families, our communities, and even our churches don't always gratify that thirst perfectly.

All of us have, however, access to a relationship which will perfectly and completely satisfy our need to be valued; to be chosen. When we really understand the relationship we can have with the God of heaven I am convinced we will come to experience the complete satisfaction of our thirst for value.

The whole story of the gospel of Jesus Christ is ultimately a value statement where God chooses us to receive his perfect expression of love. Jesus' statement ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*** (John 3:16) is the loudest of all possible value statements.

So Peter will remind us again, ***"...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God..."*** God chooses to love us, not sometimes, but all the time. God chooses us individually and specifically to be his children, his people, his royal priesthood, his spiritual house for eternity. What greater reminder of our value do we need than to constantly live that?

As a kid in school I often dreaded P.E. because sooner or later there would be there would be the need to choose teams for dodgeball, or kickball or something. I would bet that a lot of you remember that experience too. The best players would be chosen first and then those with less ability would have to be chosen and eventually there would be 'those' players that no one wanted. It was horrible to be one of 'those' players.

Throughout our lives there have been times when we have been one of 'those' players. Maybe our spouse or our parent or our friend our our brother or sister in the church made us feel like one of 'those' players because they didn't choose us.

Because of his great love for us God will never leave us feeling like one of 'those' players. Peter wants us to remember that our God and Father has and always will choose us to be his children, his people, his royal priesthood, his spiritual house. What greater value can we ever have that to be chosen by God?

