The People of God to the Glory of God

1 Peter 4:7-11

Kinds of books, and how we read them

1 Peter

Peter wrote to scattered exiles

Big idea: Jesus' undeserved death and resurrection brought us a Glorious Inheritance

→ So we can be confident to obey even if we suffer

1 Peter 2:9-10

> "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. 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 Peter 2:9-10

We are the people of God for the glory of God

1 Peter 4:7-11

The Big Idea

We glorify God
by forming the people of God
through serving one another
with God's gifts to each of us
from open hearts

People

From open hearts

Serving one another

With God's gifts to each of us

What if…

> "However, there need be no poor people among you… If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites … do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need. … Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart…. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land." from Deuteronomy 15:4-11

We are the people of God for the glory of God
as we open our hearts and serve each other with the gifts God has given us

Reflection Questions for later today or this week…

1. What are some organizations or communities or relationships where it is appropriate to treat them like reference books, turning to them when and how we need them, and then leaving when that need is met?

2. What are some organizations or communities or relationships where it is NOT good to treat them like reference books? Rather, when is it more appropriate to treat them like narrative books, expecting to be with them over an extended time, getting to know individuals (and be known by them), and enduring through conflict with the hope of a good outcome?

3. What models have you seen for how to participate in a church community? What are some positives or negatives in those models?

4. How would you describe Peter's vision of what "the people of God" should be like?

5. What gifts for service has God given you? To help discern what gifts God has given, see the Spiritual Gifts page on our website. Pick some strategies to explore your spiritual gifts.

6. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-12. What might it look like "to fan into flame the gift of God" which He has given each of us? What steps will you take?

7. What is a practical way that you can serve someone else in the church with a gift God has given you? What action could you take today or this week?

8. Where do you need others' gifts in your own life? What is a God-honoring way to be served by others?

9. **Digging deeper:** Read 1 Peter 5:1-11. In this chapter, Peter uses the image of a flock of sheep, with a lion that is trying to devour any sheep it can get. How are Christians to behave in order for the community to be protected?

Conversation starters

What makes for a strong community of people? What is a good community that you are part of?