

First Peter

Be Your Strange Self (Week 2)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

We are a strange people set apart for a strange and wonderful purpose.

Key Scriptures

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia
1 Peter 1:1

Therefore rid yourselves of all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:1-3

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. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds, and glorify God on the day he visits us.
1 Peter 2:12

Our pursuit of normal leaves us normally empty.

When we cast off what passes as normal, we can embrace our strange and wonderful calling.

We are called to be strange:

- That we may grow up in our salvation.
- That we may declare his praises.
- That our unusual life will cause others to glorify God.

Start talking.

- What were some of the weird and strange things you did growing up to try and fit in?
- How does our desire to “fit in” and “be normal” change as we grow older?
- What are destructive things we can do in our pursuit of normal?

Start thinking.

- Read 1 Peter 1:1. Why is this verse important to our understanding of the rest of the letter?
- Look at at least 3 different translations of verse one. How do they translate “the strangers”? How does that add to your understanding of the rest of the letter?
- Why was it important to Peter to call them out as such?
- Read 2 Peter 2:1-3. Why does Peter specifically call out, “deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander”?
- What is “pure spiritual milk”?
- Read 2 Peter 2:9-10. Peter gives followers of Jesus four titles. What are they? Why do those matter? What should the truth of those titles result in the life of a follower of Jesus?
- Read 2 Peter 2:12. Who are “pagans”? What is an example of a “good deed” that would cause others to glorify God?

Start sharing.

- How has your pursuit of “normal” left you feeling empty?
- Pastor Joel made the statement that as followers of Jesus we have, “strange and wonderful calling”. What does that look like for you?
- Which of the four things described in 1 Peter 2:1-3 hits closest to home for you?

Start doing.

- Pastor Joel described “pure spiritual milk” as: “the words of Jesus, the people of Jesus, and the ways of Jesus”. What is one practical step you can better lean into each?

Closing prayer.

Lord I thank you that you call me your special possession. That my identity is secured in you. Help me to stand against what passes as culturally normal. Define for me my strange and special calling and give me the courage to embrace it fully.