

God's Call for His Redeemed to Be Perfect!

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Last Sunday, we were reminded that being “in Christ” means we have been Redeemed!

**To be Redeemed =
bought back, renewed/restored to God's original design for us**

God's original design for humanity: rule God's good world and sum up the world's praises back to God!

This is the Vocation of the Redeemed:

- **(Peter)** “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 Peter 2:9
- **(Paul)** “We are therefore Christ's **ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

How do we do live out this Vocation?

Jesus taught that “Kingdom People” must strive to be _____!

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Matthew 5:48

- **Is He exaggerating?**
- **Is He holding up an impossible standard?**

In the 1st Century, Perfect primarily meant: _____

- (Rich Young Ruler): “Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” Matt 19:16
- “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”
²¹ Jesus answered, “**If you want to be perfect**, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” Matt. 19:20-21
- (James) “We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say **is perfect**, able to keep their whole body in check.” James 3:2

Christ-followers need to **become reoriented** to the new reality that **being Redeemed** brings!

Rom 12:1-2: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and **perfect** will.”

John 15:19: “If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, **you do not belong to the world**, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

Ephesians 4:11-13: “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The Teleos/Goal is to embody Romans 12:1-2 in order that we can function as _____

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Bottomline: Christ-followers...

- ...were redeemed to become Ambassadors/Royal Priesthood!
- ...need help to enable them to fully formed followers of Christ!

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may make comments or ask questions about this message by emailing Bro. Tony at: tonythornton1960@gmail.com