God’s Own Special People
1 Peter 2:9-10

Introduction:
A. Christians are often given to one of two extreme attitudes about who they are.
   1. Some manifest a “superiority complex” (cf. Rom. 12:3)
   2. Some manifest an “inferiority complex”
      a. Constantly apologizing for having to be different.
      b. Constantly minimizing their differences from “main stream” society.
B. Christians, of all people, have no reason for either complex.
   1. No reason to feel superior to anyone – just sinners saved by grace.
   2. No reason to fell inferior – because of who we are in Christ.
   3. Four terms first used of Jews by God that show that Christians are special:

Discussion:
I. We Are a “Chosen Generation” or “Elect Race” (ASV)
   A. Chosen according to God’s eternal purpose (2 Tim. 1:9-10; Eph. 3:8-10)
   B. Chosen generation is the generation in Christ (cf. 2 Tim. 1:9; Gal. 3:26,27)
   C. Chosen by the gospel (Rom. 1:16; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16)

II. We Are a “Royal Priesthood”
   A. “Royal” because of our relationship to the King.
   B. “Priesthood” to offer spiritual sacrifices (v. 5)
      2. Need no earthly priest – we are own priesthood on earth.

III. We Are a “Holy Nation”
   A. One nation under Christ..
   1. With heavenly citizenship (cf. Phil. 3:20)
   2. Are the kingdom of God (Col. 1:13)
   3. Are made “to be a kingdom, to be priests” (Rev. 1:6 ASV) – A kingdom of priests (cf. Ex. 19:6)
   B. A Holy Nation – set apart for special purposes.
      1. Unique in the world (Phil 2:15)
      2. Unique in relationship and conduct.
   C. When it ceases to be unique, like Israel, it ceases to be holy.

IV. We Are a “Peculiar People” or “His own special people” (NKJ)
   A. “Peculiar” not in sense of weird, but in sense of uniquely one’s own.
      1. Purchased by the His blood (Acts 20:28)
      2. Were not a people, now a people belonging to God (v. 20)
   B. A special people with special responsibilities.
      1. To show forth the praises of Him that called us.

Conclusion:
A. Christian have no reason to be boastful or self-righteous.
B. Nor do they have cause for an “inferiority complex”
C. God’s special people are those who are obedient believers (v. 7)