

## Belonging to God

1 Peter 2:8-10

### Introduction

Belonging is a significant human desire.

A Biblical Christian identity is a fortification against the harassment and rejection the world will throw as genuine Christianity.

#### 1. Spiritual Stumbling Results from spiritual Darkness, verse 8b.

People who persist in rejecting the gospel, face the consequence of stumbling into an eternal fall.

God sent Christ into the world to be the intersection between life and death, darkness and light.

A. “Stumbling” is a state of living perpetually downward.

B. Spiritual “Darkness”:

##### 1) Darkness of Mind/understanding.

The consequence of the sin and fall experienced by the first human couple passed on to the whole human race.

Makes people naturally unable to understand divine truth when it is encountered. Ephesians 4:17-18

Paul says this darkness within excludes you from the life of God.

##### 2) Darkness of social deception, Ephesians 5:6-8.

Satan’s presence compounds social deception, 2 Corinthians 4:3

The consequence of spiritual darkness: everyone is born “stumbling”. The gospel, or some information about Jesus, only accelerates falling for those who refuse to believe.

“They were destined for this”

means unbelievers continue to stumble (to ultimate doom) if they never repent and this doom is the inevitable destiny of unbelief.

God does NOT predestine people to unbelief. He does NOT need to.

He predestines some to be rescued and the rest He allows to continue in their **natural** state in sin and unbelief.

#### 2. The Status God gives to His New Creations in Christ, verses 9-10.

A. Four designations assigned to Christians (verse 9). Exodus 19:3-6.

1. a chosen race—an identity including both Jewish and Gentile believers.
2. a royal priesthood—a standing in righteousness that gives Christians access to God in worship.
3. a holy nation—a people who can demonstrate for the world the moral and ethical holiness of God.
4. a people for His possession—God will protect His interest and see to it that His people are ultimately preserved from whatever ills this world tries to throw at the Church.

B. These designations do not mean the Church has replaced Israel as God’s covenant people.

The Church is a temporary combining of believers into a body of believers in God’s Messiah until the time when God fulfills all His covenant promises to His original chosen people, Israel.

C. The purpose for our special status as God’s special possession.

To proclaim the greatness and goodness of God—His excellencies.

D. A reaffirmation of our spiritual identity (verse 10).

An echo of the prophet Hosea. Hosea 1:6-9, 2:21-23.

Hosea’s second child was named “No Compassion”.  
Third child was named “Not My People”.

Before salvation we were nobody. We had no hope in the darkness.

Then the mercy of God intervened to deliver us from the darkness.  
After salvation we were made part of God’s people.

### Summary:

If you are a Christian, verse 10 is your story.

The dwelling place of God is in the Christians who constitute the spiritual people of God.

The royal priesthood of God is the believers given full access to God because of the righteousness of Christ.

Christians now participate in God’s true ‘holy nation’.