



## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: EXIST TO BE A PEOPLE

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Exchange Church exists to be a people who enjoy the glory of God, equip the people of God, and extend the love of God.
2. Our deepest identity comes from being chosen by God, not from our other roles or affiliations.
3. As believers, we are called a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's own possession.
4. Our shared need for God's mercy unifies us despite our differences.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon mentions various identities we might have (e.g., professional, ethnic, political). How do these identities sometimes conflict with our identity in Christ?
2. Pastor mentions that God chooses us "knowing you." How does this truth impact your view of God's love and your own self-worth?
3. What does it mean to you personally to be part of a "royal priesthood" and "holy nation"?
4. How can remembering our shared need for God's mercy help us overcome divisions within the church?

5. The sermon references a Civil War veterans' reunion as an example of reconciliation. Can you think of a time when you've seen unity emerge from previous conflict?
6. How does understanding our identity in Christ change the way we interact with others, especially those with whom we disagree?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. This week, when you're tempted to judge someone based on a differing viewpoint, pause and remember your shared identity in Christ.
2. Take time each day to thank God for choosing you and including you in His family.
3. Identify one way you can actively contribute to unity within our church community this week.
4. Reflect on areas where you might be prioritizing other identities over your identity in Christ. How can you realign your priorities?
5. Practice introducing yourself to others primarily as a follower of Christ rather than by other identities or roles.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for choosing us and making us part of Your family. Help us to embrace our identity in You above all else. Give us the grace to see others as You see them, remembering our shared need for Your mercy. Use us to build unity in Your church and to proclaim Your excellencies to the world around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.