

## Marinating in God's Word: 1 Peter 2:9-12

Many of our models for serving Jesus were learned in an era when Christian values and the church were more accepted in our culture than they are now. Times have changed! How must we change to serve our Lord well?

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Peter wrote to churches scattered across what is now Turkey, living as a distinct minority in that culture. He wanted to reinforce and affirm their Christian identity. In what ways have you been part of a majority culture (race, social class, etc)? A minority culture? What was the impact of each upon you?
- Peter has just finished describing why the majority of his readers' neighbors reject Christ (2:4-8). Then he shifts to identifying those who have accepted Christ (2:9-10). He applies to them four honorable descriptions which God gave to the Israel of old (see Exodus 19:6, Deuteronomy 10:15). Peter wants to give them an honorable identity in a culture that devalues them. What is the sense of each? What might each mean for us as God's people in 2020 in Richmond?
- Peter understands that the church will continue to be out of the mainstream. In fact he describes them as "aliens and exiles" (v. 11). What is the import of these images for our identity, loyalties, and practices?
- In v. 11 Peter offers a negative warning, and in v. 12 he offers a positive exhortation. What does each mean? What are its effects? How might we carry these out in our own context?