

Your Identity in Christ I am Significant!

Today is Reformation Day! Five hundred and one years ago, a discovery was made that changed the world. It is still transforming lives today. The Protestant Reformation discovered that God's love for people and people belonging to God is what makes them significant.

After his conversion to Christ, Martin Luther – a leader of the Reformation - wrote a booklet to describe his experience. It was called, The Freedom of the Christian. In that booklet, he said that the good news of the gospel is like the story of a wealthy king who married a tramp. The king represented Jesus, the tramp represented anyone who placed their trust in Jesus.

The tramp could never make herself a queen. But then the king came along, full of love for her. On their wedding day, he made a marriage vow to her. With that, she was his and the tramp became a queen. He took all of her debt and she then shared his boundless wealth and royal status. It's not that she earned it. She did not attain her royal status by acting like a queen. When the king married her and received her as his own, he changed her status.

Every person of every status who accepts Jesus Christ gets to share in His righteousness and His status. Luther described this as a **status-swap**:

Jesus loves broken people and through His death on the cross for them, He makes them attractive and significant in God's sight.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Notice the equality of people in this passage. Everyone is included in the descriptions. Chosen, royal, priesthood, holy, belonging to God. Outsiders have become insiders.

It is God who makes you significant.

Peter refers to Christians as belonging to a royal priesthood. Normally, the two offices of king and priest are not combined. If you were a king, you were not a priest. If you were a priest, you were not a king. In the NT there is only person is both king AND priest – Jesus. The royal priesthood is a huge upgrade over anything they had ever known. Good news: This applies to all Christians.

It would have spoken to the significance of people to say you are *like kings*... You are *like priests*. Scripture goes beyond that and says, you are *kingly priests* which is another way of saying...

You are like Jesus.

What I want you to see is that there is no attempt by Peter to categorize or rank the people. They are all brought into the significant designation of kingly priests.

The NT culture of shame and honor desperately needed to hear this AND see this in action.
The Reformation culture of class distinction desperately needed to hear AND see this in action.
Our culture today will respond to the gospel because it desperately needs to hear AND see this in action.

Everyone needs to know that they are significant in the sight of God.