

Your Heavenly Name

Nehemiah 10:1-39

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Sermon Series: *Repairing Broken Walls*, pt. 12

Introduction:

God has given us a nickname. You and I are called “peculiar.” Peter writes that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy (set apart) nation, a (“peculiar” KJV) people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once we were not a people, but now we are the people of God. Once we had not received mercy, but now we have (I Peter 2:9). See also Exodus 19:5, Deut. 14:2, Titus 2:14. What, though, does it mean to be God's peculiar people? Nehemiah answers this important question in Ch. 10.

Overview of the chapter:

- The **first section** (verses 1-27)... lists the **signators of the Declaration of Dependence**
- The **second section** (verses 28-39)...describes three characteristics of God’s people

I. We are called to be peculiar (unique) through our R_____ (vss. 28-30).

A. With the world (vss., 28, 31).

B. With others in the household of faith (e.g., vss. 30, 32, 36, 39)

Love one another. John 13:34

Be devoted to one another. Romans 12:10

Live in harmony with one another. Romans 12:16

Accept one another. Romans 15:7

Instruct one another. Romans 15:14

Greet one another. Romans 16:16

Agree with one another. I Co. 1:10

Serve one another. Galatians 5:13

Bear with one another. Ephesians 4:2

Be kind and compassionate to one another. Eph. 4:32

Forgive one another. Eph 4:32

Submit to one another. Eph. 5:21

Teach and admonish one another. Col. 3:13

Encourage one another. I Thess. 5:11

Spur one another. Hebrews 10:24

Offer hospitality to one another. I Peter 4:9

Clothe yourselves in humility to one another. I Peter 5:5

Have fellowship with one another. I John 1:7

C. With our families (vs. 30). (See also Exodus 34:12-16, Malachi 2:10-12, Ezra 9:1, II Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

II. We are called to be peculiar (unique) through the way we handle F_____ (vss. 31-39).

A. with income (vs. 31).

B. with giving (vss. 32-39)

1. Give _____ (vs. 32)
2. Give _____ (vss. 32-33)
3. Give as a _____ (vss. 34-36)
4. Give _____ (vss. 37-38) (see Matthew 23:23)

III. We are called to be peculiar (unique) through our W_____ (vss. 32-39).

Conclusion:

Digging Deeper

1. We observed that our relationships with the world, with other believers, and especially with our families are to be peculiarly different from those of the world. What would it look like if each of these relationships were more God-honoring? What specific action steps might you identify to initiate this week?
2. We observed that the people resolved to dedicate their finances to the Lord – both money coming in and money going out. How did reading about their practice affect you? What does it mean to “give by faith”? How might you resolve this week to grow in your stewardship?
3. We also observed that the people of God were distinct in their worship. The final verse of Nehemiah 10 summarizes the people's commitment. They declare: *"We will not neglect the house of our God."* In the New Testament, however, the Lord manifests his presence not in the Temple, but in each believer's heart. Paul writes, *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own for you have been bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body"* (I Co. 6:19-20). When Augustine was tempted to plunge into the habits of his old life, he declared, *"Thou fool! Dost not thou know that thou are carrying God around with thee?"* How might this spiritual and scriptural truth, that our bodies are the Temple of the Lord affect our lifestyles? What does it mean for us to declare that *"we will not neglect the house of our God"*?
4. Chapter 10 follows the renewal of the leadership (Nehemiah 7), the revival of the people (Nehemiah 8), and the rededication of the people (Nehemiah 9). By Nehemiah 10, the Israelites had thought much about the priorities of their lives. How important is it for us similarly to think through our beliefs before we determine our behavior?
5. The Israelites wrote out their agreement and then they signed it. How important is it for us similarly to write down priorities and decisions and then to sign our name as an act of faith and resolve? What application can you find in your life? Remember, we don't have to wait for New Year's Day to make resolutions! Our resolutions, when written down, signed, and posted, serve as a daily reminder to pray for God's empowering strength to do that which we want to do.
6. What are the implications of this challenge for us to be peculiar? This week let's determine that our total lives will be truly distinctive for the glory and grandeur of God.