

Series: BASICS: What is the church?

## The Unstoppable Team

Our Identity: Elect Exiles with a Living Hope

1 Peter 1:1-12

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August 14, 2016

Matthew 16:18:

*I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.*

**We don't go to church---we are the church!**

### I. Elect Exiles: The church in the world (1 Peter 1:1-2)

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those who are **elect exiles** of the Dispersion...May grace and peace be multiplied to you.* 1 Peter 1:b-2

*By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.*

1 Peter 5:12

---We are elect: loved, chosen, blessed by God through the Gospel  
---We are in exile: strangers, aliens, susceptible to suffering

### II. The Gospel brings life, hope, and security (1 Peter 1:3-5)

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.* 1 Peter 1:3-5

- The Gospel brings NEW LIFE.
- The Gospel is made certain through the RESURRECTION of Jesus.
- The Gospel assures us of our eternal INHERITANCE.

### III. The Gospel on Display (Acts 1:6-12)

- In trials: inexpressible joy
- To prophets and angels: astonishing glory
- To the watching world: boldness, compassion, generosity (Acts 2:41-47, Acts 4:13; 23-32)

#### Parkview Church:

**Vision:** Helping people experience the hope and healing power of the Gospel.

**Mission:** Equipping people to extend the Gospel together for the good of our neighbors and our world.

**Ministry Plan:** We equip people to follow Jesus through teaching His Word and building missional community, transforming people into servant leaders who LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, AND SERVE THE WORLD.

#### For Further Study

1. The Biblical text for our "Basics: The Church" series will be 1 Peter. Key themes in this book include:
  - The hope of the gospel: **1:3-5; 1:18-21; 3:18.**
  - Our identity as a new community of people who love and serve each other: **1:22-25; 2:1-9; 3:8-12.**
  - Standing firm in the midst of trials: **1:6-12; 3:13-17; 4:12-19; 5:12**
  - A call to live holy and humble lives: **1:13-16; 5:1-11**
  - The glory of Christ that will be revealed: **4:10-11; 5:1, 4, 10**
2. To understand 1 Peter, it is very helpful to review the backstory of how Jesus transformed Peter's life. Here are some places you could begin to look at Peter's relationship with Jesus:
  - Jesus calls Peter: **John 1:35-42; Mark 1:16-17; Luke 5:1-11**
  - Key lessons Jesus taught Peter: **Mark 1:21-45; 4:35-41; Matt. 14:22-33**
  - Jesus' responses to Peter's fails: **Mark 8:27-33; 14:66-72; 16:7; John 21**
  - Peter as the courageous leader of the early church: **Acts 1:8; 2:1-47; 4:1-13; 23-32.**
3. An essential truth that believers can cling to in times of adversity is the certainty of the gospel, grounded in the reality that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We see this emphasis in 1 Peter, and we also see this emphasis in the preaching of the early church as it launched in the book of Acts. Investigate the numerous times and ways the early church pointed to the resurrection of Jesus! **Acts 2:22-36; 3:13-18; 4:10-12; 5:29-32; 10:37-43; 13:27-37; 17:23-32; 24:14-16.** What hope and confidence do you experience because Jesus is alive?

#### To Discuss: With families, friends, community groups

- 1) As a group, chew on the concept of what it means to be elect exiles. What encourages us about being God's elect? What does that say about Him, and what does that tell us about the gospel? (Refer to 1 Peter 1:3-5). In what ways can we feel like exiles as we strive to follow Jesus?
- 2) What struggles are you facing? How does 1 Peter 1:3-5 help you stand strong in the midst of these struggles?
- 3) Which part of Peter's story of life change did you resonate with? Share with each other areas of your life that you would love to see Jesus transform this year.