

In Revelation, John encourages the churches to be distinct from the world around them for the _____ of the world.

Believers can endure _____ because the King of Kings and Lord of Lords is coming again to bring flourishing to his creation.

The calling of the Church today is...

- ...to care for one another as family.
- ...to carefully maintain our identity in Christ through regular worship and discipleship.
- ...to represent God to the world and to intercede to God on behalf of the world.
- ...to be salt and light to the world through our good deeds and faithful observance of Jesus' teachings.
- ...to care for the poor and marginalized and not cater to the rich and popular. We are to treat foreigners among us well because we were once foreigners.
- ...to bear witness to the good news of the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus as we await his return to restore everything to the way it was supposed to be.



Called by God

“We are the family of God CALLED and empowered by God to give ourselves for the glory of God and the good of the work.”

_____ or _____ are difficult to understand—until we understand where they came from

_____ stories become a calling.

What we _____ is determined by who we _____.

The Church was _____ idea.

The Church's Origin Story

Creation

Humans are created in the _____ of _____. (Gen 1:27-28)

1. Humans have incalculable _____.
2. Humans are called to partner with God to bring about _____ of his creation.

Instead of shalom, we brought _____ through our sin.

Israel and the Blessing

God's plan to redeem creation began with a _____. (Genesis 12:1-3)

Israel was not chosen for their own salvation, but to _____ all the families of the earth.

God brought them out of Egypt so they could fulfill their _____.

The Law

The purpose of the law was to make them a "kingdom of _____" and a "_____ nation." (Exodus 19:5-6)

The Law is summed up by:

"_____ the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." (Deut 6:4-5)

Love your _____ as yourself." (Lev 19:18)

Disobedience and Exile

When Israel entered the Promised Land, God did not want them to be influenced by Canaanite religion and give in to _____ worship, sexual immorality and failure to do _____.

They were to care for the poor, widow orphan and _____. (Isaiah 1:10-17, Lev 19:34)

Israel's sin unleashed _____ and they were taken into exile in Babylon.

Jesus

God didn't just send a Messiah, he took on _____.

The first step to blessing all the families of earth was the Messiah doing _____ and _____, proclaiming the Kingdom of God.

In Jesus' new Law, ultimate obedience is to love our _____. (Matthew 5:43-45)

The way Jesus brings about victory is not by _____ his enemies, but _____ for them.

What the enemies intended as Jesus' demise was actually his _____!

Jesus' followers would not have to fulfill their calling _____.

The New Testament Church

"But you are a chosen people, a royal _____, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)