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# ***BIBLE INSIGHT***

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

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## **Now, Isn't That Peculiar?**

by Carey Dillinger

A young man was searching for a church home in his community. Week after week he visited one denomination after another until one Sunday he found himself worshiping with a very peculiar congregation.

When it came time for the music portion of the service, the entire congregation sang together, singing Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual songs accompanied by no choir or mechanical instruments of music. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) Now that was peculiar!

The Lord's Supper was offered to all present, no questions asked. Each person was asked to judge themselves whether or not they should eat the Supper. (1 Cor. 11:28) This was not a social meal... those were held away from the time and place of worship. (1 Cor. 11:22) The visitor came to understand that the Supper was offered each Lord's day. (Acts 20:7) Now that was peculiar!

Later on in the service the congregation took up a collection and invited the visitors to NOT give, as the collection was the responsibility of that congregation. (1 Cor. 16:2) This congregation neither received nor sent funds from nor to any institution outside of the local church. Now that was peculiar!

He noticed that no women were taking a leading part in the service. He later found out from a flyer that was handed to him that the leadership in the congregation consisted of only heterosexual males. (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6). When reading further in the flyer he came to understand the congregation was completely autonomous and neither controlled or was controlled by any outside congregation or convention. Now that was peculiar!

As the service drew to a close the visitor was impressed by just how much Bible had been read and referred to in the hour he had been there. The speaker invited each person present to get themselves right with God. For those that were

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## **church of Christ at Beverly Shores**

Sun. 9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes  
Sun. 10:30 a.m.—Worship  
Sun. 6:00 p.m.—Worship  
Wed. 7:00 p.m.—Bible Classes

1318 Griffin Road  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
352-365-9946

## **Welcome Visitors!**

We are glad to have you visiting with us today, because you are part of our goals. This may sound odd, but please let us explain. Our goal is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and to glorify Him in all that we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)

God will always be our number one priority, but the Bible speaks of secondary goals that this church also recognizes. Today, we consider you our honored guest, and hope to prove ourselves welcoming and hospitable. In fact, we hope that you can tell we are loving.

**1 Timothy 1:5 says: "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."**

Because this is our goal as well, we hope that you can see love in our teaching. We hope you can see people with pure hearts, a good conscience, and faith that is totally genuine. Only then will we really be doing our job.

So please, stay a while after services so we can greet you. Feel free to take a welcome packet with you as you leave, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Helping you is part of our goals.

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**From page one...**

not following Christ- they were urged to study the Bible, reach a faith in God and Jesus as His Son, making a confession of that faith, and be baptized for the remission of their sins. (Acts 2:38) Now that was peculiar!

Examples of how to come into a right relationship with God were shown from the book of Acts. The visitor was very interested in the conversions of Saul of Tarsus, the Philippian Jailer and the Ethiopian Nobleman. (Acts 16: 25; 9:1-22; 8:26ff.) It was all very peculiar!

One Sunday evening the congregation was studying in:

Titus 2:14: *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a **peculiar** people, zealous of good works.*

And

1 Pe 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a **peculiar** people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

A light bulb came on in the visitor's mind. Upon arriving home he consulted his Bible dictionary for the word **Peculiar**:

"as used in the phrase "peculiar people" in 1Pe 2:9, is derived from the Lat. peculium, and denotes, as rendered in the Revised Version ("a people for God's own possession"), a special possession or property. The church is the "property" of God, his "purchased possession" (Eph 1:14; R.V., "God's own possession")."  
[*Easton's Bible Dictionary.*]

Now he realized why everything seemed peculiar – **it was supposed to be!**

## The People of God

By Phillip Shumake

**“for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.” 1 Peter 2:10**

One of the great strengths of having a family is that it provides a source of identity, we are part of “a people.”

In the Old Testament, it is the family lines of Jacob that are traced through the twelve tribes of Israel. The tribal lands are also referred to by the appropriate family name. Individuals are even said to belong to or be part of specific branches, not of the nation, but of the family of Jacob.

This distinguishing and identifying designation carried with it a heritage, a connection to others, and even an inheritance. All of these family traits helped provide and form an identity for members of Jacob’s extended family.

In the days of the New Testament, families still provided an identity for people. The many Mary’s of the New Testament would be nearly impossible to distinguish and identify without their family connections such as: Mary, the mother of James and Joseph; Mary, the mother of Jesus; Mary the wife of Clopas.

We should remember the concept of family identity if we wish to understand the significance of being “The People of God.” Having been called out of darkness into a new family, we now have a new identity. "And I will be a Father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18

As people of God, we have a new heritage, new relationships, and new hopes of our eternal inheritance. Our spiritual family reaches not just back to earthly fathers, but to God, a heavenly Father. Now we have new relationships to other believers. They are our spiritual brothers and sisters. Because of our new identity in God’s family an eternal inheritance is waiting for us in heaven. This week, let us praise God for making us His people, by adopting us as sons and daughters into His family.

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**“Our spiritual family reaches not just back to earthly fathers, but to God...”**

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