

Epistle 172

by George Fox

We are of the royal seed, elected and precious before the world began, and we are called to preach righteousness and love our enemies.

Scripture: Ezekiel 16:49, John 12:31, 1 Corinthians 2:8, Ephesians 2:19, 2 Timothy 3:5, Hebrews 11:10, 1 Peter 2:6, 2 Peter 2:6, Revelation 5:9-10

Topics: "Identity in Christ", "Perseverance in Faith"

Description

George Fox emphasizes that believers are part of the royal seed, chosen and precious in God's sight, called to live righteously amidst a world filled with ungodliness. He highlights the persecution faced by the faithful, who are often at odds with the worldly powers that oppose the truth of Christ. Fox calls for a return to the true essence of faith, where love and righteousness reign, contrasting it with the hypocrisy of those who profess religion without embodying its spirit. He asserts that true believers are anointed by God, tasked with preaching righteousness and standing firm against the corruption of the world. Ultimately, he encourages the faithful to recognize their identity as kings and priests, empowered to reign with Christ against the forces of darkness.

Transcript

We are of the royal seed, elect and precious [1 Pet 2:6], before the world began, that which (ever) the Sodomites crucified, grieved, and vexed by their unrighteous, ungodly conversation [2 Pet 2:6], who lived in fulness, and pleasures, and abundance of idleness [Ezek 16:49]. And we are of that seed, that cannot serve the wills and lusts of men, and bow and stoop to them; who are a people redeemed out of kindreds, kingdoms, peoples, and nations [Rev 5:9], who are of the household of God [Eph 2:19], built up together a spiritual house [1 Pet 2:5], whose builder and maker is God [Heb 11:10], and do reign upon the earth, as kings and priests unto God [Rev 5:10]; whom we serve day and night [Rev 7:15]. And are of the seed that hath been slain from the foundation of the world [Rev 13:8], which the princes of the world, and counsels, and the great and wise of the earth crucified [1 Cor 2:8]; who lived in the form of godliness [2 Tim 3:5] of the saints' words, but quenched the spirit [1 Th 5:19] in themselves, and being that birth born of the flesh, persecuted that which is born of the spirit [Gal 4:29].

We are of the seed, the anointed, which the powers of the earth combine and take counsel together against, whom God (we see) sitting in heaven, laughs them to scorn [Psa 2:2-4]. We are the royal priesthood [1 Pet 2:9], who offer daily to the Lord the spiritual sacrifice [1 Pet 2:5]; the holy generation [1

Pet 2:9], and the peculiar people, zealous of good works [Tit 2:14], clothed with the zeal [Isa 59:17] of Christ against the bad works, and the workers thereof. Therefore of all nations, peoples, sects, ways, professions, and talkers of religion are we hated, by them that are out of the way and power of God, though they profess scriptures, church, worship, and ministry; yet such have crucified Christ, and the Lord of glory [1 Cor 2:8].

We are they that witness the promise of God fulfilled, and that do witness, that the age is come wherein God would show forth his exceeding riches and kindness [Eph 2:7], which was wrought amongst the apostles. We are the anointed of God, and his prophets, that he saith, 'touch not [Psa 105:15];' who are as the apple of his eye [Zech 2:8]; who for our sakes hath reprov'd powers, and thrones, and dominions [Col 1:16], and rebuked them. We are the preachers of righteousness in the great city Sodom, wherein Christ was crucified [Rev 11:8], where the life of the prophets, and the apostles, and holy men of God lies slain, and cursers, swearers, drunkards, eaters, and drinkers, that rise up to play [Exo 32:6], in all fulness, wantonness, and profaneness, profess their words, and make merry over their lives.

And the witnesses since the apostles' days have been slain; the woman in the wilderness [Rev 12:6], the lamb and his wife [Rev 19:7] shall be known, which is come up out of the wilderness. So in this great city Sodom and Gomorrah, the false church and the whore are, where all the abominations are, that made all the nations drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication [Rev 14:8, 17:4, 18:3]; whereby the world is all on heaps about religion, and church worship, and the several ways in Sodom's nature, professing the saints' words, imitating forms, killing and slaying one another about professing the saints' words, but out of their life.

Which shows, that they are not of the royal seed, which saith, love enemies [Mat 5:44]; that is the royal seed, and they that follow him, are of the royal priesthood, and holy people and generation, amongst whom is the royal law of love [James 2:8]; whereby we cannot respect men's persons, for he who doth, is convinced of the royal law, to be a transgressor [James 2:9]. So every one of us, that is come to the seed of God, that bruise the serpent's head [Gen 3:15], that led man from God, who is the prince of the world [John 12:31], the prince of darkness [Eph 6:12], and the prince of the air [Eph 2:2], the father of lies, a murderer from the beginning [John 8:44], the corrupter of mankind, the author of the separation from God, and the original of sin, the beginning of it, which led man from his dominion over the handiworks of God; which the royal seed Christ [Gal 3:16], destroys, and renews man again in the image of God, and brings him again to his dominion over the handiworks of God.

And this hundreds of thousands are now witnessing; by which they come to be kings, and redeemed from the earth [Rev 14:3], and come to be made kings upon the earth [Rev 5:10], in the image of God, over the handiworks of God, in the wisdom by which they were created. So all powers whatever, that are a terror to evil doers, that bear not the sword in vain [Rom 13:3f], to us are a praise, that do well ;1 Pet 2:14]. And all kings upon the earth, that were anointed by God, a figure of our Christ, the king anointed, he ends them all, and makes kings to reign upon the earth.

Amongst these Christ is king, which thousands witness; amongst these he is king, and all other kings made by man, and putting on man earthly crowns, earthly man will put them off again, and unking them, if they cross them. This is the state amongst them in whom Christ reigns not, nor the true magistrate obeyed, which is to the evil doers a terror. But since the apostles' days all hath been in confusion about religion, church, and worship, amongst them that have killed the witnesses, and since the true church went into the wilderness [Rev 12:6], and the witnesses have been slain, and the man child caught up to God

[Rev 12:5].

So they that have slain the witnesses, and killed the saints, have been in all this confusion; and the witnesses are rising, and the everlasting gospel shall be preached again (amongst them that have had the words, but have slain the life of the prophets and the apostles) unto all nations, kindreds, and tongues of them that dwell upon the earth [Rev 14:6]. So the great professors of the world, (which were the Jews,) could not abide Jesus, the king, that he should reign; and where he is now in the male and in the female [Gal 3:28], he is king, and that makes kings, among whom he is king. All in the name of the mighty King of kings [Rev 19:16] is to be done, and then it is the power.

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