



Series: 1 Samuel
Week 8: Keeping the Distinctive

Questions

Ice-breaker question (to get people talking): Was there ever a time in your life where you wished you were just like everyone else?

- 1) The Israelites were God's chosen nation on earth. Part of their existence was to be a light to the nations: they were to show the world what it was like to live in a covenant relationship with God. However, this was not always the case. The church is similarly supposed to be a light to the nations. Do you think that the church has lost its distinctive character and being in the world today? If so, why?
- 2) Galatians 5:1 says, 'For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.' We said that our distinctive as people of God is that we are free; free from the Law of Moses, free from sin and death, free from condemnation. We are free to be the people that he has created us to be. What kind of difference should this make in our daily lives? Can you give examples?
- 3) **Read Mark 12:28-34.**
Jesus gives a summary of what it means to be in relationship with almighty God. What in your life marks you out as a lover of God? What examples of this can you give from your life or other believers' lives you have observed over the years?
- 4) **Read John 15:12-17.**
Jesus says that he lays down his life for his friends and he is calling his disciples to do the same. In what ways can we 'lay down' our lives for the sake of others?
- 5) It has been suggested, many times, that we are to be in the world, but not of the world. There is nothing particularly wrong with this statement, but it doesn't really help us when it comes to mission! What is important is that we love the world in the same way that Jesus loved it. How much would you say you really love people of the world? Do you spend much time with folk who are not believers? If so, what kind of conversations do you have with them? Do they know the hope to which you profess? How can you show love to them? (Spend some time reflecting on these questions and discussing your responses to them.)