

and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done. The Scriptures say,

“Once you were nobody.

Now you are God’s people.

At one time no one

had pity on you.

Now God has treated you

with kindness.”

1 PETER 2.9, 10

BE SOMEBODY—With Jesus!

Jesus said:

Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me.

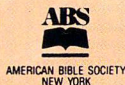
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You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. So I command you to love each other.

JOHN 15.4, 5, 16, 17

This is a Selection of Holy Scripture in the *Contemporary English Version*. You are urged to read the Bible and to share it with others. For a catalog of other Scripture publications, write to the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

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YOU ARE SOMEBODY!



YOU ARE SOMEBODY

Do you ever feel like you're a nobody? What a downer! But being a nobody is not the way God sees you. God created you in a special way to be somebody. Because God loves you, you are somebody! And because you are somebody, Jesus Christ died for you and took away your sin. Now you have eternal life, and that makes you somebody!

You are somebody—God accepts you!

GOD TREATS EVERYONE ALIKE. HE ACCEPTS people only because they have faith in Jesus Christ. All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But God treats us much better than we deserve, and because of Christ Jesus, he freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins. God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so that by faith in him we

could come to God. And God did this to show that in the past he was right to be patient and forgive sinners. This also shows that God is right when he accepts people who have faith in Jesus.

ROMANS 3.22–26

You are somebody—Christ died for you!

CHRIST DIED FOR US AT A TIME WHEN WE were helpless and sinful. No one is really willing to die for an honest person, though someone might be willing to die for a truly good person. But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful.

ROMANS 5.6–8

You are somebody—God gives you the gift of life!

ADAM SINNED, AND THAT SIN BROUGHT death into the world. Now everyone has sinned, and so everyone must die. Sin was in the world before the Law came. But no record of sin was kept, because

there was no Law. Yet death still had power over all who lived from the time of Adam to the time of Moses.

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Everyone was going to be punished because Adam sinned. But because of the good thing that Christ has done, God accepts us and gives us the gift of life. Adam disobeyed God and caused many others to be sinners. But Jesus obeyed him and will make many people acceptable to God.

The Law came, so that the full power of sin could be seen. Yet where sin was powerful, God's kindness was even more powerful. Sin ruled by means of death. But God's kindness now rules, and God has accepted us because of Jesus Christ our Lord. This means that we will have eternal life.

ROMANS 5.12–14a, 18–21

You are somebody—God chose you!

YOU ARE GOD'S CHOSEN AND SPECIAL people. You are a group of royal priests