

# 1 Peter

## Part 6 – Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone

### 1 Peter 2:4-10

Peter focuses on Jesus being the foundation, the cornerstone of the spiritual house, the church, that is being built by God. For mankind there are only two options when it comes to Jesus. He is either the cornerstone, the foundation of our faith, or he is a stumbling block and one to be rejected. For the believer, we recognize what the unbelieving world does not, that Jesus Christ is the chosen, precious, savior of mankind, the one who has called us out of darkness



and into his marvelous light. Because of this truth of what God has done for us through Jesus, Peter describes the identity of the church as a spiritual house, a holy and royal priesthood, a chosen race, a holy nation, and a people for his own possession. And so, as his people who have received such a great mercy, we are called to proclaim the goodness and beauty of our savior to the world.

**Main Idea:** It is in Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of the church, that we get our new identity. He has called us out of darkness and into the light as a people that reflect his glory to the nations.

### We are built up by Jesus who is our foundation (vv. 4-5).

- He is a living stone
  - Peter makes this distinction because as the cornerstone of the church Jesus is a solid foundation like a sturdy rock, but not only that, he is alive and actively building his church. He is both the foundation and the builder.
- We are living stones
  - We reflect the character and purpose of Jesus in that we are included as the building blocks of his spiritual house – the church. He is THE living stone, and we likewise are living stones.
  - “The imagery of the living stones being built into a single unit implies that the significance and purpose of the individual Christian cannot be realized apart from community with other believers. Coming to Christ means coming into relationship with others, not only in one’s own generation but also by being united with believers of every generation, who likewise have been built into God’s grand building project. The structure will only be completed when the scaffolding of human history comes down and the kingdom of Christ is revealed in all its glory.” - Karen Jobes
- We are a holy priesthood
  - The priests were set apart to work in the temple, to offer sacrifices and prayers to God on behalf of the people, and to instruct them in God’s truth. Their work was set apart as holy as they served God in their vocation in the temple.
  - But now, because of Jesus, the great High Priest, we don’t need priests to mediate between us and God anymore. In Christ, through his sacrifice, we now have access to God. Also, we are all called to serve in God’s kingdom no matter what our vocation.

**There are consequences for our belief or unbelief (vv. 6-8).**

- Peter's appeal to scripture
  - Peter develops this idea that Zion is bigger than just Jerusalem (which was a shadow and a type of the true City of God). It's a foretaste of the heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, that will come down when Christ comes back, at which time believers will be ushered into the new heavens and new earth.
- Whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.
  - The backwards nature of the kingdom of God is this – that even though we may be shamed by the world for following Christ, we will receive honor in the eyes of God.
- Whoever rejects Jesus will be put to shame.
  - The stone that is our sure foundation is also the stone of judgment (Matt. 21:42-44)
  - Those that reject Jesus will stumble and fall.

**As those who have received mercy we live out our new identity by giving praise and glory to God (vv. 9-10).**

- Our identity is rooted in Jesus Christ
  - Chosen race – The Greek word for “race” refers to a people who come from a common lineage. In Christ, we have a new lineage. We are one people. One God. Our identity in Christ trumps any other category.
  - Royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for his own possession - Peter is referencing Exodus 19 when he uses this designation for the church. At Mount Sinai, when God gave Israel the 10 commandments, he prefaced it by calling the entire nation of Israel a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation, a treasured possession among all people.” God was setting them apart from the other nations. It was as a means to mirror his glory to the other nations to show them that no other god can rival the one true God.
  - Now, through Jesus, the church takes on that same task. As God's people have always been commissioned to do, we the church, the spiritual household, are called as those set apart to proclaim God's goodness.
- From that identity comes our praise and worship of God.
  - He has called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.
  - We proclaim his excellencies.
- We who once were not a people are now a part of God's people.
  - Hosea was called to marry an unfaithful woman as part of a living illustration of Israel's unfaithfulness.
  - Hosea and Gomer had a daughter and son as part of God's prophetic work.
    - Their daughter was born and named “No Mercy.”
    - They had a son and he was named “Not My People.”
    - These names were tangible reminders of Israel's sin.
  - But Hosea prophesied about a day when God would call his people back himself.
    - “And I will have mercy on No Mercy,  
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;  
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’” – Hosea 2:23
    - The church is the fulfillment of that promise in Hosea. God has taken a people that were enemies, a people destined for wrath, and he has made us his people. He has shown us mercy when we did not deserve it.