

STANDING FIRM

1 Peter 2:4-12

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and
“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1) Write down 10 observations and 5 questions about the passage.

How to Study the Bible

1. Pray
2. Read the passage multiple times
3. Identify key verbs, nouns, and repeated words or phrases
4. Write down questions
5. Check context, cross-references
6. Check commentaries
7. Ask “Why does this matter?”

2) Highlight the main verbs and the main subjects of the passage.

- 3) Who/what is the stone referring to in this passage? (Hint: See 1 Corinthians 10:4)
- 4) What are the four descriptions of a believer according to verse 9?
- 5) In Verse 5 Peter refers to believers as "a holy priesthood." What does that mean for believers? How does that effect the way we should approach the world?
- 6) Believers do not need to offer animal sacrifices anymore. However, verse 5 states that they are to "offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." Read Romans 12:1-2, and explain what Spiritual sacrifices are, and the difference is for us and Old Testament believers.
- 7) What is the purpose of believers according to verse 9?
- 8) In verse 10, what is the difference between those who are God's people and those who are not?
- 9) Look up the definition of "abstain" and write it down in the space provided. Why does Peter use the words "as sojourners and exiles" when telling them to abstain from passions of the flesh?
- 10) Read Galatians 5:16-21 and write down the desires/works of the flesh. If verse 11 tells us that these things wage war against your soul, how are you doing in the fight against them?
- 11) What is the purpose of honorable conduct according to verse 12?
- 12) What are some ways **you need to** apply this passage?