



A PEOPLE IN THE FIRE

A STUDY IN 1 PETER

1 PETER 2:4-8

Read 1 Peter 2:4-8.

How would you describe a “living stone?” How are these two words, “living” and “stone”, descriptive of Jesus? How are they descriptive of us, the church?

What is the significance of Christ being the “cornerstone” as mentioned in verse 6?

There is a lot of temple language being used here. Christians reading this would have immediately connected the language of “stones” being “built up” into a “spiritual house” to the building of the temple in the Old Testament. Peter uses even stronger temple language when he speaks about the church being a “holy priesthood” who “offer spiritual sacrifices” to God. The temple was the dwelling place of God, it is where His presence resided. But here Peter is saying that we are the temple of God, and Christ is the most important part of this new temple, the piece upon which the entire thing is built.

How are we being “built up”? (See verse 4 for the connection). What are we being built up for? Verse 5 teaches us that our being built up results in two things: a new identity and a new responsibility. What is the new identity we gain? What is the new responsibility we gain? How do we go about fulfilling this new responsibility?

How is our responsibility to offer spiritual sacrifices to God dependent upon our identity as a royal priesthood?

It is only through coming to Christ (“as you come to Him” in v. 4) that we are then adopted into the royal priesthood. Without that new identity, we are unable to offer pleasing sacrifices to God for two reasons: 1) It is only priests who can offer the sacrifices, and 2) We must offer these sacrifices “through Jesus Christ”, neither of these can we do apart from being given a new identity by God as part of the royal priesthood.

What are “spiritual sacrifices?” (see Romans 12:1-2). How are we able to make these sacrifices “acceptable to God?” Does the thrust of this passage indicate that this is something we do alone or together? Why? How?

How does our common identity and common responsibility affect the way we view one another? How can we encourage one another in light of this?

In light of Romans 12:1-2, what does offering yourself as a spiritual sacrifice acceptable to God look like?

