

WEEK ONE

I Peter 2:1-12 (NLT)

“So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. As the Scriptures say,

“I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem,
chosen for great honor,
and anyone who trusts in him
will never be disgraced.”

Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.”

And,

“He is the stone that makes people stumble,
the rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they do not obey God’s word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

“Once you had no identity as a people;
now you are God’s people.
Once you received no mercy;
now you have received God’s mercy.”

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.”

FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this weekend’s message?
2. How do people sometimes pretend like everything’s fine when it’s not?
3. Why do we tend to hide our junk from God, rather than take our mess-ups straight to Him?
4. In what ways does the completed work of Jesus affect your pursuit of spiritual growth?
5. Why do you think it’s so hard for some to accept the message of Christ? How would you pray for them?
6. 1st Peter 2:9 says we’re a “chosen people.” How does this thought impact your confidence as a Christ-follower?
7. Why is it so easy to forget that life is temporary? How do we tend to settle in and forget?
8. Read 1st Peter 1:12. How could our walk with God positively affect the lives of others around us?

QUIT!