

# 1 PETER

## IDENTITY IN EXILE

### 4 – A Spiritual House: From Rejected Stones to God’s Holy People

#### 1 Peter 2:4–10

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,  
“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and, “A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Holiness is more than behavior. It is identity rooted in relationship with God.

#### I. **A Covenant Connection**

Exodus 19:3–6

Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

God offers:

- Relationship before requirement
- Identity before instruction

## II. **A Living Construction (vv. 4-5a)**

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house...

- A. Christ is the Living Stone
- B. In Christ, we are Living Stones
- C. In Christ, we are a Spiritual House

1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Ephesians 2:21–22

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

## III. **A Priestly Calling (v. 5b)**

...to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- A. In Christ, we are set apart for service.
- B. Through Christ, we offer spiritual sacrifices to God.

Hebrews 13:15–16

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. <sup>16</sup>And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Spiritual Sacrifices Include:

- Praise
- Good works
- Generosity
- Holy living

#### IV. **A Dividing Cornerstone (vv. 6-8)**

<sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup>and, “A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

A. Jesus is the chief building block to believers.

B. Jesus is a stumbling block to unbelievers.

There is no middle ground in Jesus. We either build on Him or stumble over Him.

#### V. **A Redefined Community (vv. 9-10)**

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of

darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A. A New Identity:

- Chosen people
- Royal priesthood
- Holy nation
- God's possession

B. A New Purpose:

- Proclaim God's praises
- Testify to God's redemption
- Represent God's rule