

1 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 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, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

4 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.

5 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. 6 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."

7 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."

8 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.

9 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.

10 "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."

11 Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. 12 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.

— 1 Peter 2:1-12

Discussion/Journal Questions

In his sermon, John mentioned the Walton Master Craft Belt Exerciser. What are some other exercise or weight loss gimmicks you have heard about?

Why do you think people are attracted to such gimmicks?

What happens when we bring this desire for great results with little or no effort into our spiritual lives?

Read 1 Peter 2:1-12. What initially stands out to you as you read this passage? What questions come to mind? Is there anything here you never noticed before?

Reflect on the metaphor Peter uses in verse 2. What is Peter trying to capture with this image?

Read Hebrews 4:12. In the sermon, John said that we cannot outgrow scripture. Do believe that? Why or why not? How does our time with God's Word change if we believe it to be living and active as the author of Hebrews says?

According to 1 Peter 2:9, what is our calling and purpose as God's people?

What happens to this calling and purpose if we fail to heed the command of verse 1?

How can your group pray for you this week? How can you encourage and pray for them?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?