

A. SERMON SLIDES

Born into Community
1 Peter 2:4-10 (ESV)

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 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. 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.”

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,”

and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

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

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. 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.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Please read I Peter 2:4-10. What do you think is the thrust and point of this section of scripture? What is Peter trying to communicate to his readers?

2) It is true that God expects "community" where the divine presence is delivered (Matthew 18:20), but also true that many communities are unhealthy and exploitative. How do we reconcile practically those two realities?

3) Explore these analogies one at a time and discuss how they enlighten or alter your view of community

1) Living Stones

2) Holy Nation

3) Royal Priesthood

4) Let's think about identity. How do these two images that define us help us to receive the "right" kind of identity:

1) Chosen (not choice)

2) Purchased Possession (valuable treasure)

5) How do we help one another to be balanced? Can you tell when someone does not understand unworthy enough? What characteristics might you see? Can you tell when someone does not understand worth (valued) enough? What characteristics might you see?

6) Are we helping one another to apply the Gospel into the deepest parts of our lives? if not, how can we do better? How do we lay life upon life?

7) Prayer and praise