

“The church is made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything else of that sort. Christians come together... because we have been saved by Jesus Christ and owe him our common allegiance. They are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus’s sake.” —Don Carson, Love in Hard Places

WELCOME

This week we move in our study of 1 Peter from our identity in Christ and how that leads us to a confident obedience, to our corporate identity as God’s people and how that leads us to confident community. As you gather this week, discuss one or both of these questions:

- Think about a role that you fulfil during a typical week, outside of what you consider as your main work, for example, parenting/grandparenting, volunteering, etc. If someone made an ID card for that role, what would it say for your “location,” “job title,” and “purpose”?
- What was one positive and negative experience with a church growing up?

WORD

Read **1 Peter 2:4-10**

1. What stood out to you in the scripture? In the sermon this past Sunday?
2. In verses 4-10 Peter describes the Christians he is writing to in several different ways. Either as a whole group, or in smaller groups, identify the different descriptions that he uses. What aspect of Christian identity was Peter wanting to help them grasp with each one?
3. Their identity was based on Jesus and what he had done for them. How does Peter encourage them to keep trusting Jesus in verses 4-6?
4. The first readers of this epistle lived in the Roman empire. What challenges might they have faced in maintaining their Christian identity described in verses 9-10?
5. What does Peter say that God formed them as a new building and people for? What is their purpose together and individually?
6. Which aspect of Christian identity here are particularly encouraging to you right now? Why?

WORSHIP

1. Take a few moments to reflect again on how you have been affirmed in your identity and purpose through this discussion. Thank God for what has encouraged you.
2. Lift up to God the implications of our identity in our lives this week
3. Pray for each other’s needs and the needs of your neighborhood and world.

WITNESS

Like Peter’s readers, there are probably those in your life that don’t believe in Jesus or think he is particularly special. In what way might the truths that Peter has dwelt on help you be more confident as a Christian in your life?

SERMON NOTES: