

DEVOTED

GOING DEEPER- 1 Peter 2

Read 1 Peter 2:4-17

There are many different images used to describe the church:

- **Living stones** (4) built up as a spiritual house. The church is the new temple where people can meet with the living God!
- **A royal priesthood** (5, 9). We exist to help people be reconciled to God and to bring God's message to the people as we reflect the holiness of the King of Heaven.
- **A chosen race** (9). We are a chosen race across all races. What unites us is not our ethnicity, but that we are citizens of heaven. Birthed by God!
- **A holy nation** (9). Imagine a nation completely dedicated to God. What defines these people? Their holiness as a reflection of the holiness of their King.
- **A people for his own possession** (9) proclaiming God's excellencies. We are a very special treasure in God's eyes.

Worthy Christian conduct empowered by God is about:

Living as exiles, abstaining from fleshly passions, honourable conduct among gentiles, subjecting to authorities and institutions for God's sake, honouring all people, being a servant of God, loving the brotherhood, fearing God & honouring political leaders.

Question: Which of these identities needs to grow in your life?

I am of a chosen race, a royal priest, a citizen of a holy nation, a special possession to You. I am a stone in Your living temple. to proclaim your excellencies and reconcile man to you. Help me to live grow in my identity and you I love You Lord. Amen.

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Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

Jesus left us an example to follow through his own suffering:

- He walked in holiness in his words and actions (22);
- When he was reviled and suffered, he chose not to retaliate, instead He entrusted Himself to the Father to judge all things justly at the right time (23).

In following His example then, we too are to walk in holiness and not retaliate when suffering, but instead to trust God to judge those who harm us in the right way, and at the right time.

For servants and slaves this means being subject to masters respectfully, even if they are unjust because when we endure sorrow and suffering unjustly mindful of God, it is a gracious thing before God (18-20).

In this passage, Jesus' purpose in bearing our sins in his body was that we might die to sin and live to righteousness and be healed! (24). This powerful truth is echoed here: "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again"- 2 Cor 5:15.

Question: How should you respond and what should follow in your life in response to why Jesus bore our sins?

Jesus, I'm so grateful that You endured such suffering for me. I know You did this so that I might die to sin and live to righteousness. Help me do so by the power of Your Spirit! Amen.