

Cornerstone [Living Stones] Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon continues a series on Jesus as the cornerstone, focusing on what it means to build our lives and our identity on Him. Jonathan opens with a personal story about his Father's adoption, using it to illustrate how trusting Jesus gives us a completely new identity. Just as adoption changes a person's name and status, coming to Christ means we are no longer defined by rejection, failure, or the world's labels. We are chosen, loved, and brought into the family of God.

Drawing primarily from 1 Peter 2:4-10, Jonathan unpacks the rich identity language Peter uses: chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, and God's very own possession. He emphasizes that Jesus is the living cornerstone, and that every believer is a living stone being carefully and intentionally placed by God into His spiritual temple. The sermon closes with a practical call to action rooted in Romans 8:12-14, challenging believers to recognize their freedom in Christ, make active choices to put to death the deeds of the sinful nature, and lean into the leading of the Holy Spirit as children of God.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come to You today with open hands and open hearts. Before we dive into Your Word together, we ask that You quiet the noise in our minds and the weight we are carrying from the week. We know that

each person in this group comes from a different place, with different struggles and different questions. But we trust that You are the same God who meets us all right where we are. Holy Spirit, lead this conversation. Help us not just to discuss ideas, but to truly encounter the truth of who You say we are. May we leave today more convinced of Your love and more rooted in the identity You have given us in Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

If you could give yourself a nickname or title that describes who you are at your best, what would it be and why?

Key Verses

- Galatians 2:20
- 1 Peter 2:4-10
- Ephesians 2:19-22
- Romans 8:12-14
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Questions

- Jonathan opened with a story about his Father's adoption giving Him a completely new identity. Can you think of a time in your own life when a relationship or a major change shifted how you saw yourself?
- In 1 Peter 2:4-5, Peter calls Jesus the 'living cornerstone' and calls believers 'living stones.' What does it mean to you personally that you are described as a living stone, not just a passive observer in what God is building?

- Jonathan pointed out that God places each stone 'carefully' and with intention (Ephesians 2:21-22). Do you find it easy or difficult to believe that God has a specific and intentional place for you in His church? What makes that hard to accept sometimes?
- Peter lists four identity markers in 1 Peter 2:9: chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, and God's very own possession. Which of these four resonates most with you right now, and which one is hardest for you to fully embrace?
- Jonathan said, 'You cannot be neutral about Jesus.' Based on 1 Peter 2:6-8, what does it look like in everyday life when someone is building on Jesus as their cornerstone versus stumbling over Him?
- Romans 8:12-14 makes it clear that living out our new identity requires active choice, not just passive belief. What is one area of your life where you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to make a more intentional choice to live out who God says you are?
- Jonathan described how many of us build our identity on shifting foundations like performance, approval, or success. Which of those false foundations have you personally leaned on the most, and what has been the result?
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. What does it practically look like for you to stop holding onto your old identity and start living out of the new one God has given you?

Life Application

This week, choose one of the four identity markers from 1 Peter 2:9, chosen, royal priest, holy, or God's very own possession, and write it somewhere you will see it every

day. Each morning, before you check your phone or face the demands of the day, read it out loud and ask the Holy Spirit to help you make at least one decision that day based on that identity rather than on fear, shame, or what others think of you. At the end of the week, reflect on how that simple practice shifted the way you thought, spoke, or acted.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus is the living cornerstone, not a historical monument, and every believer is a living stone being carefully and intentionally placed by God into His spiritual temple.
- Coming to Christ is not just a decision or a religion. It is a complete identity transformation. We move from rejected and abandoned to chosen, royal, holy, and God's very own possession.
- Our new identity in Christ is not something we earn or aspire to someday. It is who we already are the moment we place our trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Living out our new identity requires active cooperation with the Holy Spirit. We must choose to put to death the patterns of our old nature and lean into the Spirit's leading rather than being driven by guilt, shame, or the world's labels.
- The cornerstone is set and it is unshakable. Because Jesus is our firm foundation, everything in our lives can be genuinely rebuilt and made new, not just improved, but truly transformed.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the time we have shared together today around Your Word. We are grateful that You do not see us the way the world sees us, or even the way we sometimes see ourselves. You see us as chosen, as royal priests, as holy, and as Your very own. As we leave this conversation and step back into our everyday lives, we ask that the truth we discussed today would not stay in this room. Let it follow us into our workplaces, our homes, our relationships, and our quiet moments. When the old voices rise up and try to define us by our failures or our fears, remind us of the cornerstone that cannot be moved. Holy Spirit, lead us. Help us to say yes to Your correction, Your guidance, and Your love. Build us together as living stones into something that reflects Your glory. We love You, Lord. In Your precious and holy name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.