

## WEEK 3 — BUILT TO BELONG

1 Peter 2:1-10

(Progression: Taste → Build → Proclaim)

### INTRODUCTION | *The Ache of Not Belonging*

*Growing up, I moved around quite a bit. More than the average person. I lived back and forth between two countries and attended 8 different grade schools. Such an experience really makes you wonder where you belong. But I reckon that it's not only a feeling I know but you as well.*

*The ache of not belonging in some place.*

- The lunch table you weren't invited to.
- The group text you're not in.
- The workplace where you never quite fit.
- The language barrier that brings misunderstanding.
- The family gathering where you feel invisible.
- The new school. The new church. The new job.

And what this produces is what some people call rootlessness. The reality that people don't know who they are because they don't know where they belong. Have you ever felt rootless?

Peter writes to rootless believers scattered across the Roman Empire who were misunderstood, rejected, and marginalized because of their faith in Jesus. They knew what it was like to not belong. So before he tells them what to do, he reminds them God made them not only to belong to His house, but to become a meaningful part of the house themselves!

### ***Let's read it, 1 Peter 2:1-10.***

*1 So put away all malice, and all deceit, and all envy, and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

*4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 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. 6  
For it stands in Scripture:*

*"Behold, I am laying down in Zion a stone,  
A cornerstone chosen and precious,  
And whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

*7 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,"*

*8 and  
A stone of stumbling,  
And a rock of offense.*

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

*9 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. 10 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.*

## **1 | KEEP FEEDING ON CHRIST, THAT YOU MAY GROW UP! (vv.1-3)**

For now, I want to ask you to ignore verse 1. I promise I will return to it in the next section. Verse two resonates so much with me in this stage in life as a father of two. My 3-year-old is being weaned off of milk, he only takes about 5 ounces at night. But my 6-month-old Theo, that boyyyyy can drink milk! He craves it all the time. He eats about 28 ounces of breastmilk a day! When that kid is hungry, all he craves is milk and nothing will calm him down until he gets it.

He craves milk. Day and night. When modern Christians hear "milk," we often think:

"Milk is for beginners." Why? Because Paul and Hebrews talk about it that way. But Peter doesn't. Peter is writing to believers and telling them: "Crave milk!"

He never says: "Now graduate beyond milk." In Peter: Milk is not beginner food. Milk is ongoing nourishment. He says, "Like newborn infants, crave pure spiritual milk." He's not saying they are immature; he's saying, Crave the spiritual milk! But, how do you crave something you don't automatically like? I guess you could say that God's Word is an

acquired taste! You need to taste it before you crave it because you can't crave what you don't taste! Verse 3: "If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."

Now, from previous verses, we know that Peter isn't simply saying, "Read your Bible more!" He's saying, crave the Word of God, the gospel, which reveals Christ more and more in your life. The most mature believers I know are still feeding on Christ. They feed on His Word!

**HUNGER AT THE HANGAR** | Meeting over coffee turned into Bible study, turned into rekindled hunger for God's word! All at The Hangar, over some coffee and John 4. A few minutes in Scripture awakened spiritual hunger. Everyday people, looking for the right nourishment

Many Christians want:

- confidence
- purpose
- Clarity
- Problems resolved...

But Peter says: Start with nourishment. The Christian life is not sustained by inspiration. It's sustained by feeding.

*But Peter isn't interested merely in feeding individuals.* He's building something bigger.

## **2 | YOU ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER, SO OFFER YOUR LIFE TO HIM (vv.4-8)**

As you come to him, he builds you up. God did not save you merely to forgive you. He saved you to build you.

Peter shifts imagery: From babies drinking milk, to stones in a building.

"As you come to Him..." Greek: This is present and ongoing.

Not: "As you once came"

But: As you keep coming. As you continue coming.

Most people ask: "What am I building?" Will my life build something that will matter...

Peter asks: "Who is building you?"

Develop:

What are we building on? Jesus, a rejected and offensive stone. Wow, so exciting!

Jesus is:

- rejected by men
- chosen by God
- precious to God

And those who come to Him become:

- living stones
- part of God's house
- members of God's priesthood

### ***Important Observation***

The text never says: "You are a brick." It says: You are a stone in a house. Belonging is communal. Nobody becomes a spiritual house by themselves.

And as you embrace your call to be built together...we must ask ourselves...what kind of things prevent stones from becoming a house?

Verse 1; communal sins.

### **Spiritual Sacrifices: Romans 12 connection.**

Offer:

- your body
- your worship
- your obedience
- your resources
- your service

Built up to offer up.

### *Contrast*

Two responses to Jesus:

Come to Him.

Or stumble over Him.

No middle ground.

Transition: And now Peter tells us why God is building this people.

### **3 | YOU ARE CHOSEN FOR A PURPOSE, SO MAKE HIM KNOWN** (vv.9-10)

God doesn't give us identity so we can admire ourselves; He gives us identity so we can announce Him.

Peter unloads identity language.

- chosen race
- royal priesthood
- holy nation
- God's possession

Pause and ask: Why all these titles?

Why this avalanche of identity? Because Peter wants them to know:

***You are not what the world says you are.***

**THAT** you may proclaim. This is the hinge.

Identity is serving mission.

Peter does not say: Go explain Christianity.

He says: Proclaim His excellencies. Tell people how amazing God is.

#### **Simple Witness Framework**

***Darkness → Light***

What darkness did He bring you out of?

What light did He bring you into?

Examples:

- shame → acceptance
- fear → peace
- addiction → freedom
- bitterness → forgiveness

- Loneliness → belonging

Nobody can argue with your darkness-to-light story.

The whole sermon ends with verse 10.

Once you were not a people.

Now you are God's people.

Once you had not received mercy.

Now you have received mercy.

### **Mercy explains every identity!**

*Why are you chosen?*

Mercy.

*Why are you royal?*

Mercy.

*Why are you holy?*

Mercy.

*Why do you belong?*

Mercy.

*Everything changed when mercy showed up.*

### **CONCLUSION**

Many people spend their entire lives asking:

"Where do I belong?"

Peter's answer: You belong because you have been chosen. You are being built because you keep coming to Christ. You have a purpose because God has shown you mercy.

### **SUMMARY**

Keep coming.

Keep being built.

Keep making Him known.

Because: **We are chosen by God and built together for His purposes.**



1 Peter 2:1-10

Notes from 1st reading:

*The entire passage gushes with identity! Every other line is an identity-revealing truth; it's like Peter can't put into simple words all that God has done for us and made us to be! It just gets better and better! And that identity-forming revelation becomes a life-shaping truth! Who we are shapes what we do.*

*But why does Peter gush with identity? Maybe he knew a little bit about living from the wrong identity.*

*And it all hinges on coming to Jesus. Either you come to the cornerstone, or you stumble on it.*

Vv1-3 IDENTITY FORMATION BEGINS WITH WHAT YOU SATISFY YOUR CRAVING WITH. (OR: Spiritual milk shapes your identity, so drink up!)

- Question: How do you develop a craving for something? Is milk (the word) an acquired taste? Do we drink to crave?
- To know your identity, you must read what God has already spoken!

The Christian life is not just about being saved from your sins but for a new life in Christ.

Those who have tasted God's salvation must then crave the milk that teaches us how to live out such salvation. The more you drink of the milk, the more you grow as you live the Word.

Just drink it, then you will develop a taste for it. And what the word does is that it challenges the areas that our lives are out of line with God's character. You think you're doing pretty well then you read a proverb and realize you've been acting like a jerk! Cause you learned that patience is a virtue.

So how do you crave? Well, you can't crazy what you don't taste. Meeting with a visitor: he mentioned he didn't have a desire to read or pray. So we opened John 4, talked about our thirst, and just a few minutes in the scriptures made him crave some more! That's the power of Scripture.

Drink, crave, conviction, transformation as we live it.

- You may be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a chosen race...BUT that doesn't mean the world will recognize that. Instead, like Jesus, we too will be rejected, our lives will cause many to stumble in their ways. But don't be offensive; let the gospel do that. Jesus is the one who offends.

#### Vv.4-8 BUILT UP TO OFFER UP (DON'T GET STUCK ON IDENTITY!)

*Identity is always moving somewhere. Peter is not merely telling them who they are, but the kind of people they are becoming and why. This is not a Christian self-esteem talk! This is mobilization!*

- Maybe the question in life is not “what are you building”, but “who is building you?” Because when you come to Jesus, you become built up.
- Either you are built up into a spiritual house or you stumble into shame!
- What is behind the language: “as you come to him”, in other words, we won’t experience this if we don’t continually come to him, daily, all the time.
- What does it mean to “come to Jesus” *As you come to him, you are being built up.* Who is doing the building? Is this Jesus’ doing, our responsibility is to come to him, when we do that, he will build us up *so that we may offer him sacrifices!*
  - *Explore what those sacrifices are. Cr: Romans 12.*
- Those who come to the stone become a part of his spiritual house; those who stumble on the stone end in shame. Could it be that shame is the natural result of not having a rooted identity in Christ? Explore this connection.

#### Vv.9-10 YOU ARE CHOSEN, ROYAL, HOLY, HIS—SO THAT YOU MIGHT PROCLAIM!

*Although mercy is at the end of this section, it is at the heart of the whole letter; mercy/grace. (appear 12 times). When mercy happened, then everything changed, but not until it showed up!*

You were nothing before the mercy of God appeared to you, but now you are everything.

- A chosen race
- A royal priesthood
- A holy nation
- A people for his own possession

All this, that you might proclaim. There are still people out there living with the wrong. (I know this seems petty, but this next step, feels repetitive, like we always tell the church to go and tell someone, but am I missing something? Or is there a more interesting way to put this challenge, to declare? Could it be simplified, an easy paradigm for sharing the gospel, proclaim how good God is?)

#### DOXOLOGICAL EVANGELISM

Go and tell people how amazing God is, and what kind of darkness he pulled you out of, and the light he brought you into. The person who has seen the excellencies of God cannot

help but talk about Him. So maybe you're not telling because you're not experiencing the mercy of God!

We naturally proclaim what we treasure.