

Living in Exile: “You are Priests”

1 Peter 2:4-10

¹ *Peter 2:4* 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 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.

– You are [priests](#) with a mission –

1. [Jesus](#) is building an impregnable spiritual house... (2:4-8; cf. Matt. 16:16f.)

2. ...for the [purpose](#) of a priestly mission (2:5, 9-10; cf. Exodus 19:6)

Application in Community

Welcome: As a Christian community, we believe Christians grow spiritually through interaction with GOD’s word in community (Acts 2:42-47). And we believe that each believer in Christ has a role to play to build up the body of Christ into maturity (Ephesians 4:11-16). To discover your role at Grace and to connect with a small group, see Tiea Hanson at the Information Center or email her at tieah@gracechurchseattle.org – you can also give us a call during the week 206.937.8400.

Application Questions:

- When you think of a Catholic priest, what comes to mind? What are his functions? What does he do that the average person cannot?

Historical Note: Up until the Reformation in the 1500s, the Medieval Church exclusively taught there was a priestly class through which salvation was mediated, along with the sacraments (baptism, eucharist, confession, etc.) But Martin Luther and the Reformers believed Scripture teaches all Christians are priests by virtue of our union with Christ by faith. Therefore, every individual has direct access to God without ecclesiastical mediation and each individual shares the responsibility of ministering to the other members of the community of believers.

- Talk through the **historical note** for clarification of the implication of this doctrine for you and me before we look at the scriptures below.
- Read 1 Peter 2:4-10 with a focus on vv. 5 & 9 –
 - How are *you* made a priest according to these verses?
 - What are we supposed to do as “priests”? (vv. 5, 9)
 - What can this practically look like in this small group?
 - What can this practically look like at Grace Church? (Eph. 4:11-16)
 - What can this practically look like in everyday life?

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