

1 Peter

Living and Hoping as Exiles

Rejected by men, honoured by God (1 Peter 2:4-10)

READ 1 Peter 2:4-10 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig's [sermon](#).

Contrary to the commonly held view that identity is determined by actions, the Apostle Peter offers a profoundly different perspective. According to Peter, early Christians were encouraged to remain obedient and joyful because of their new identity in Christ Jesus despite the difficult challenges they were facing. This new identity, received upon coming to Christ for salvation, was intended to influence their outlook and behaviour.

Main Lesson: Because God has shown us mercy, giving us a new identity and privileges, we must live for His purposes and praises.

Questions:

1. What is the "living Stone" and how is it described elsewhere in the Bible? (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16; Mark 12:10-11; Acts 4:11)
2. What does it mean that Jesus was "rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious"? How was He rejected?
3. In what way are believers now living stones? How does their association with Christ, the Living Stone, contribute to them being living stones? See Acts 4:13.
4. What does it mean practically that believers are "being built up as a spiritual house"? See 1 Cor 3:16. Consider the importance of the local church.

5. What does it mean that believers are a holy and royal priesthood (vv. 5, 9)?
6. In what way are believers to offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ? Consider as many practical examples as possible. See Rom 12:1; 15:16; Phil 4:18; Heb 13:15-16; Rev 8:3-4.
7. There are two responses to Christ as the stone, in vv. 6-7. What are the responses given and what are the ramifications for each? See also Matt 21:33-45.
8. Why do you think "the builders rejected" Christ? In what way did they think He was not suitable?
9. What reasons does Peter give for why believers should "proclaim the excellencies" of God? Which do you find most comforting?
10. What areas of your life do you need to change so that (1) your actions act as holy sacrifices to God and (2) you begin to proclaim the excellencies of God? Who might you share this with?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: the Lord for His abounding love toward His people whom He has redeemed

Thank: God for calling you out of darkness and into His marvelous light

Pray: that you would act and speak to honour God and promote His glory