

“God’s Privileged People”

1 Peter 2:4-10

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I. Introduction

- A. Peter (the Rock) has given us a vivid description of Jesus Christ, our Rock.
 - 1. Our “Living Stone”
 - 2. “The Cornerstone”
 - 3. “The Chosen Precious Stone”
 - 4. “The Stone of Stumbling”
 - 5. “The Rejected Stone”
 - 6. “The Dependable Stone”
- B. Now, Peter shifts the focus from Christ to God’s people. He describes what is corporately true of all believers who are in union with Christ, our Rock.
 - 1. Peter again paints three pictures or metaphors to help us understand the privileges of God’s people in the church.
 - 2. As Peter closes this section on salvation, he wants us to know how blessed and privileged we are as God’s people in the church.
 - 3. We also learn from this text that the Christian life is to be lived in community with other Christians (v. 2).

II. We Are Stone in the Same Building (1 Peter 2:5)

*“ye also as living stones are built (or being built) up a spiritual house.” (v. 5)

- A. “ye also.” (v. 5)
 - 1. Because of our union with Christ, we are also “living stones.”
 - 2. Because of our new birth, we now have His life in us.
- B. “are being built up a spiritual house.” (v. 5)
 - 1. As living stones united to Jesus the Living Stone, we are being built up as a spiritual house or temple.
 - 2. Jesus today is building the church.
 - a) Also pictured as His “body” and His “bride.”
 - b) Now, here. pictured as a “building” or “house.”
 - c) It is spiritual, not material
 - d) Matthew 16- “I will build my church”
 - 1) The Tabernacle
 - 2) Solomon’s temple

- 3) “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).
- 4) The believer’s body (1 Corinthians 6)
- 5) The church (Ephesians 2:20)

III. We Are Priests in the Same Temple (1 Peter 2:5)

*“...a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” (v. 5)

- A. In the Old Testament, God’s people had a priesthood, but today, in the New Testament, it says that all true believers make up the church and are called a “holy priesthood.”
 1. Nowhere in the New Testament are pastors or ministers called priests or fathers.
 2. All Christians are a “holy priesthood” and “a royal priesthood” (v.9).
- B. We, as God’s people, can come directly to Him through Jesus Christ.
 1. Like the priests in the Old Testament
 - a) We are chosen and called by God.
 - 1) Exodus 29
 - 2) “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:4).
 - b) We are washed
 - 1) “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).
 - c) “Good works of service”
 - 1) “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).
 - d) “a broken spirit and a contrite heart”
 - 1) “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17).
 - e) “Our bodies”
 - 1) “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).
 - 2) These spiritual sacrifices are acceptable to God only as we do them by and for Jesus Christ.

IV. We Are Citizens of the Same Nation (1 Peter 2:9-10)

A. Just as Israel was a privileged nation in the Old Testament, the church is now a privileged people (a new humanity).

1. The church is not spiritual Israel. God still has a plan for Israel (Romans 11).
2. For now, the church is what God is all about in the world today.
 - a) It is His “body,” His “bride,” and His “building.”
 - b) When it’s complete, He will take us His “bride” home. It is called the Rapture

B. Peter uses four phrases to describe Christians

1. “A chosen generation” (v. 9)
 - a) “but ye” in the Greek is emphatic (v. 9)
 - b) The first word in verse 9 is “you.”
 - c) It’s an intended contrast with verse 8
 - d) “A chosen generation” (Isaiah 43:20)
 - i. Just as God chose Israel because He loved them (Deuteronomy 7:7-8)
 - e) God set His love and grace upon you
 - i. We are a new humanity, not Jew or Gentile
2. “Royal priesthood” (v.9)
 - a) We were a “holy priesthood.” (v. 5)
 - i. Now, we are a “royal priesthood.”
 - ii. Why? Because we belong to and are in the service of Christ our King
 - iii. We serve in the King’s house, the church
3. “A holy nation” (v.9)
 - a) It means a nation dedicated to God and His service
 - b) Israel failed because they became like the other nations
 - c) They were supposed to be a light to the other nations
 - d) This should be a lesson for us, the church
 - i. We are to be a light to the world
 - ii. Not like the world. We are to separate from the world to serve God

iii. (1 John 2:15)

4. “A peculiar people” (v. 9)

- a) A people for God’s own possession
- b) A people belonging to God
- c) Before your salvation, you were a child of the Devil
 - i. Now that you are saved, you are a child of God
- d) We were redeemed by the death of Christ, so we now belong to God. We are His own possession.
 - i. We were bought at a price
- e) As the church, we are God’s people
 - i. As a pastor, I always try to remember that

C. All these privileges bring great responsibility

1. “That you should shew forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (v. 9)

2. God’s purpose for us, His people, the church

- a) “shew forth”
 - i. To “declare” or “proclaim”
 - ii. His praise and excellence
 - iii. Do you tell others of His excellence, His perfections, His love, His grace, His mercy?
 - iv. “He called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light.” (v. 9)
 - v. Peter is drawing from Hosea 1:6, 9 (v. 10)
 - vi. He explains what it means to be taken from “darkness” to “light.”
- b) Before your salvation, you were not God’s people, but now you are the people of God
 - i. At one time, there was no mercy, but now we have experienced the mercy of God

V. Conclusion

A. We are stones in the same building

- B. We are priests in the same temple
- C. We are citizens of the same nation