



New Identity [1 Peter 2:1-10]

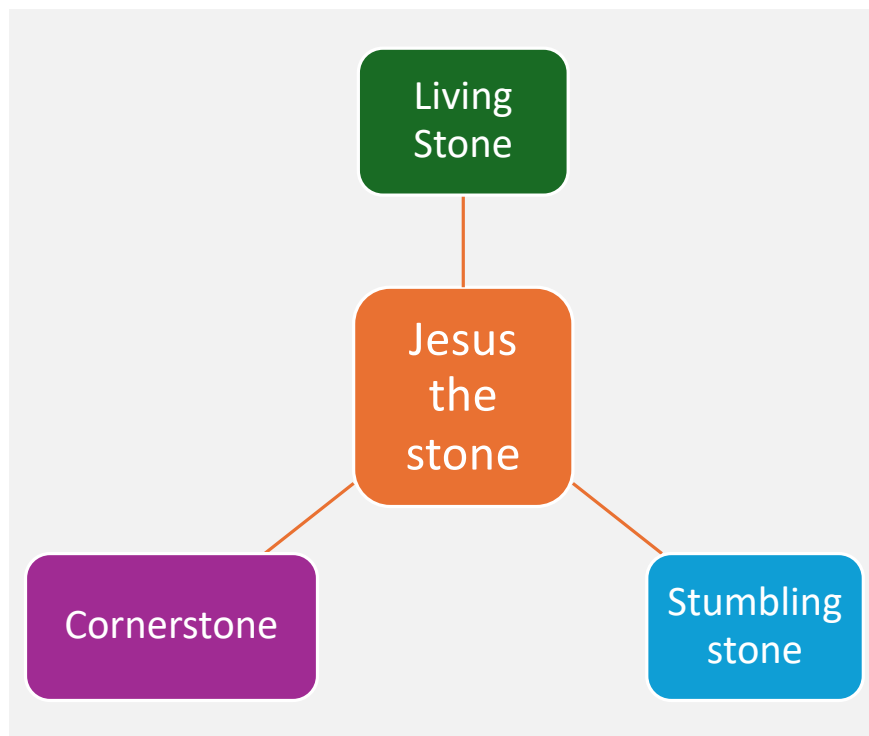
**Finding Hope in a
Hopeless World**

Who is Jesus? (1 Peter 2:4-8)

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for (1 Peter 2: 4-8).

Who is Jesus?



- Jesus is called the stone
 - Strong, stable foundation of the Christian faith.
- Jesus as the living Stone
 - As you come to him, the **living Stone**—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him (1 Peter 2:4)
- Jesus the Cornerstone
 - The stone the builders rejected has become the **cornerstone** (1 Peter 2:6 & 7).
- Jesus the stumbling stone
 - A stone that causes people to **stumble** and a rock that makes them fall (1 Peter 2:8).

Jesus is the Living Stone

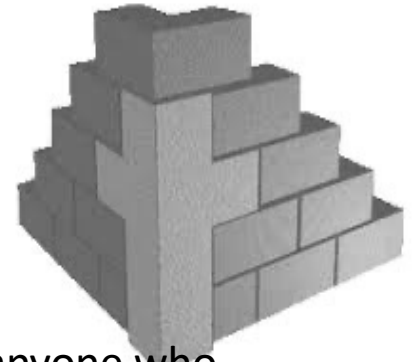
- Living Stone: Jesus is the resurrection stone (a life-giving stone).
 - For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself (John 5:26).
 - His resurrection from death to life is what gives life to believers (living stones), transforming them into a spiritual temple where God's Spirit resides.
 - Jesus is living water (John 7:38), living bread (John 6:51), living way (Hebrews 10:20).
- Jesus = The Living Stone, Christians = living stones
 - We derive our life from Christ (the original living Stone).
 - Just as stones are fitted together to form a building, Christians (living stones) are actively built into the church, around Jesus, supporting and strengthening each other.
 - He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen (Revelation 1:6, NLT).

We are a spiritual house (priests)

- God is building His people into a spiritual house to become a holy priesthood
 - You, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5).
 - You will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God (Isaiah 61:6).
- As priests, we are to;
 - Reflect the holiness of God;
 - Offer spiritual sacrifices here on earth;
 - Offering of our bodies to God for his service (Romans 12:1).
 - The giving of gift to enable the spread of the gospel (Phil. 4:18).
 - The singing of praise (Hebrews 13:16).
 - Doing good and sharing our possessions (Hebrews 13:16).
 - Intercede for others before God by representing God to others;



Jesus is a Cornerstone



- A cornerstone
 - I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced (1 Peter 2:6, NLT).
 - The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone (Psalm 118:22).
 - The stone that forms the base (corner) of a building joining two walls.
 - Christ was rejected by humans but was chosen and honored (precious) by God.
- A stumbling stone
 - A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they disobey the message, which is also what they were destined for (1 Peter 2:8).
 - See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble, and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame (Romans 9:33).
 - Christ (the rejected stone) will judge those who rejected Him. Stumbling is the punishment of disobedience.

Our New Identities

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession (1 Peter 2:9)

Chosen people

- Israel (Old testament) vs. All believers (New Testament).
- We are chosen not because we are good, but because He loved us.

A royal priesthood

- Royal: belonging to the king.
- We are priests. We don't need a priest to get to God.

A holy nation

- Holy means saintly, different.
- Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20).

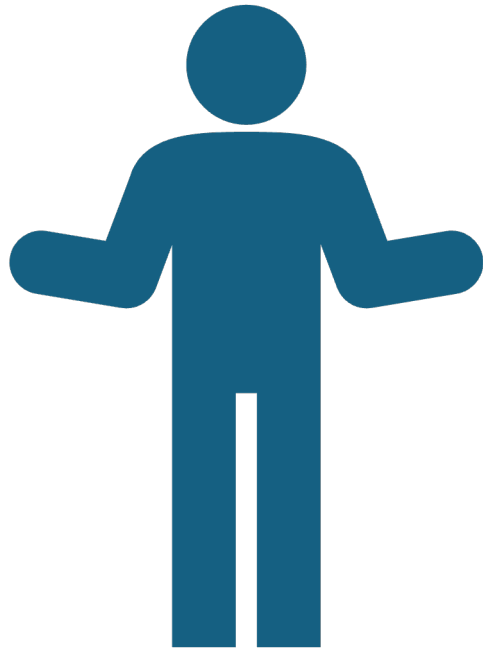
A people belong to God

- We are people for His own possession, God's very own.

With a New Identity Comes a New Duty

- New duty
 - That you may **declare the praises** of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9b).
- Declare the praises
 - Proclaiming God's worth: How great and wonderful God is and how much you love Him.
 - Living a life that glorifies God through one's actions and character.
 - Sharing the message of His goodness and the light He brings to the world.
- Long for the Word of God (1 Peter 2:1-3)
 - Like newborn babies, crave **pure spiritual milk**, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation (1 Peter 2:2).
 - Remember your life source: Pure spiritual milk (The Word of God).
 - Eliminate your sin: Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind (1 Peter 2:1)
 - Pursue your growth: Christians are exhorted to crave God's Word and be diligent in their spiritual "intake" to foster growth.

How do you feel for a special identity?



- Are you honored?
 - Do you feel honored to be chosen by God?
- Are you worried what if you can't?
 - Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else (Exod. 4:13).
- Are you confused why I was chosen?
 - I was no prophet...I was a herdsman...the Lord said to me, "Go prophesy to my people" (Amos 7:14)
- Are you conflicted with other tasks you must pursue?
 - Lord, first let me go and bury my father (Luke 9:59).
 - But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business (Luke 22:5).
- Are you reassured?
 - It is amazing that God would not only forgive me but call me to be a living stone and a part of his spiritual house.