

GO BEYOND

SERMON SERIES



Transforming the City One Life at a Time. Know God, Grow Together, Discover Purpose, Make a Difference

CONNECT

- Have you been a part of a project or a team and had a much a larger role than initially anticipated? What happened?

WORD

1 Peter 2:4-10

"4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 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. 6 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." 7 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," 8 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. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

THOUGHT

Coming to Him as to a living stone: Peter's picture here is that God is building a spiritual temple (a spiritual house) using living stones (Christians), those who have come to the ultimate living stone (Jesus). Jesus is first called the living stone; then we are called living stones. We live because we are connected with Him who is the source of life. "It is in union with him that they live, and answer the end of their regeneration; as stones of a building are of no use but as they occupy their proper places in a building, and rest on the foundation."

DISCUSSION

1. What is a cornerstone? What is its purpose? How is Christ a cornerstone?

2. Why would people stumble over the stone rather than build their lives on it?

3. Why would we consider Christ our high priest?

4. Does your life reflect a priest who goes beyond Godlessness in it to honor God in how you live?

5. How is our new status with God to influence the way we live?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Is Jesus a stumbling block for you? Or is He your cornerstone? This week, spend time with God, in His word, with people acknowledging His ability of you put your trust in Him to “never be put to shame.” (1 Peter 4:6b)

PRAYER

- Pray, asking God to allow you to become the living stone that He will use to build His temple. Pray that Christ, the ultimate stone will be made most important and more real to you than ever before. Pray allowing this precious cornerstone to be trusted by you so that you can never be put to shame.
- Pray with a friend, coworker, or family member the same prayer. If they do not know Jesus as a cornerstone, but a stumbling block, pray they will see and know Him as the precious cornerstone.