

A Chosen People

1 Peter 2:4-10 (ESV)

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,”^[a]

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.

Background

Peter's original readers were Christians scattered across modern Turkey. They were also facing much persecution, slander, rejection from those around them.

And so far, Peter gives them instructions and commands. Just before, he urges them to live holy lives (1:15-16), to crave the pure spiritual milk of the word (2:2). And right after our passage, he continues with commands: to abstain from sinful desires (2:11), submit to authority (2:13) and follow Christ's example in suffering (2:21).

But at the heart of all these commands, Peter pauses and reminds them *who they are*. That at the heart of all they are experiencing, and at the heart of all they are called to do, *is a people that God has been made*.

DISCUSS

1. A chosen and Precious Temple (v4-5)

As we come to Jesus, the living stone rejected by men and chosen and precious to God, something happens to us Christians. We too become like him, *living stones*. We too will be rejected by men and chosen and precious to God.

But more than that, God is building us up into a spiritual house where God dwells, we are a holy priesthood with direct access to God. We offer our lives as a living sacrifice.

All the blessings that the Old Testament temple and priesthood had are now experienced to all who *come* to Jesus.

It is easy to let other people's opinions crowd our ears. That dismissive look, critical comment, or moment of rejection, can shape how we see ourselves. But there is another voice that matters more than any. It is God's. Peter does not tell these Christians to fight back the hate or prove their worth. He points them to what God says: You are chosen and precious.

So whose voice has been shaping how you see yourself lately, and how does it compare to what God says about you?

2. Chosen Rightly: Trusting the Cornerstone (v6-8)

Jesus is the cornerstone, chosen and precious. Those who believe in Him will not be put to shame, but the honor belongs to them. They are built up on Jesus as building project.

But those who reject Him will stumble over him, fall, be "broken to pieces" and "crushed" by Jesus (cf. Matthew 21:44)

There is no middle ground, either we come to him and receive honor, or we toss Him aside, and face the consequences of our choice.

Is Jesus truly precious to you as the chosen and precious cornerstone? What competes with Him for the first place in your life right now?

3. A Chosen People, Called to Proclaim (v9-10)

Peter takes four Old Testament descriptions given to Israel: a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for his own possession, and applies them to us. Not because of anything we have done, but simply because God has shown us mercy (v10).

Yet being chosen comes with a purpose: **“to proclaim the excellencies of the One who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (v9).**

To proclaim is active, it requires words. It means telling someone about Jesus.

This can feel intimidating. You might worry about saying the wrong thing or not knowing enough. But the message is not complicated: **Jesus is the chosen and precious One who died for us, and He has brought us from darkness to light.** That is a story worth telling. The people around you need to hear about Jesus, and you are exactly the person God has placed in others' lives to tell them.

When God calls us to Himself, He also calls us to bring others to Jesus, the cornerstone. Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus, and what is one practical step you could take this week to share what He has done for you?

Pray For:

1. Our Identity in Christ

Pray that we would live confidently in the identity God has given us, chosen and precious, being built up as His temple. That we would not be defined by the opinion of others but by God's definition.

2. Faithfulness to Christ

Pray that Jesus would remain precious to us as the cornerstone of our lives and church. That we would trust Him, build our lives on Him, and have Him at His rightful place.

3. Boldness to Proclaim

Pray that we would faithfully proclaim the excellencies of God. That God would grant us courage to speak about what Jesus has done for us, and for opportunities to bring those around us to Jesus the cornerstone.