



Text

| V | MSG | NIV | Good News |
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| 1 | So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk. You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God. | Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. | Rid yourselves, then, of all evil; no more lying or hypocrisy or jealousy or insulting language. |
| 2 | | Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, | Be like newborn babies, always thirsty for the pure spiritual milk, so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved. |
| 3 | | now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. | As the scripture says, "You have found out for yourselves how kind the Lord is." |
| 4 | Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering | As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— | Come to the Lord, the living stone rejected by people as worthless but chosen by God as valuable. |
| 5 | Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent: Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it. | 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. | Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple, where you will serve as holy priests to offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices 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." [Isaiah 28:16] | For the scripture says, "I chose a valuable stone, which I am placing as the cornerstone in Zion; and whoever believes in him will never be disappointed." |
| 7 | To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, The stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone. | 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," [Psalm 118:22] | This stone is of great value for you that believe; but for those who do not believe: "The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all." |
| 8 | For the untrusting it's a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted. | and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." [Isaiah 8:14] They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. | And another scripture says, "This is the stone that will make people stumble, the rock that will make them fall." They stumbled because they did not believe in the word; such was God's will for them. |
| 9 | But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted. | 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. | But you are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvelous 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. | At one time you were not God's people, but now you are his people; at one time you did not know God's mercy, but now you have received his mercy. |

Group Discussion

- In **verses 1-3** Peter says “*rid yourself*”.
 - Of what?
 - Why?
 - How?
- In **verses 4-10** What images does Peter use to describe the church?
 - In what sense is Jesus the cornerstone? Of what?
 - In what sense is Jesus a “rock of offense”?

chosen generation – special people

- Peter’s hearers are among the first to respond to the good news of Jesus, to understand that they are saved and reconciled through Jesus and filled with God’s Spirit.
 - Why is being chosen, or seen as special, so important?
 - Does this mean that some are not chosen?
- What does this phrase mean for you?
- Not a people – now a people | not obtained mercy – now obtained mercy: what do these phrases mean?

living stones – spiritual house

- Jesus is the living stone, we are all living stones?
 - In what sense?
- Or to put it another way:
 - who has helped build you up?
 - if they were removed, what would the church lose?
- Do you understand that as a “*living stone*” you are a vital part of the “*spiritual house*” that God is building?
 - What does this look like practically?
- Why do you think Peter used the word “*spiritual*” to describe house?

royal priesthood

- In the Old Testament, only priests had access to the presence of God. Peter now says (**verse 3, 9**) that every follower of Jesus is a priest.
 - How do you think this might have impacted the 1st century church?
 - What does understanding that we are all priests mean for our lives today?
 - What does this mean for how we treat or respect each other?
- What other roles did priests have, that are now ours?

holy nation

- We are part of the kingdom God is bringing.
- Why do you think Christians confuse God’s kingdom with nationalism?
 - What is the antidote to nationalism?
- If we are a “*holy nation*” then Jesus is king. What does this mean about the authority he has over and in our lives?

This is the nature of sin: People seek their identity & happiness & purpose & key relationships everywhere else but in the one true place: Jesus. Blindness (Jesus called it). ~Howard Snyder

- How do you respond to this statement?
- How is Peter helping the sojourners, the exiles, the diaspora, the soon to be increasingly persecuted church understand who they are?
- What are the implications of **verse 10**?

Praying For One Another

Pray that each one in your group be aware of the implications of living out these questions.

This Week

- Read 1 Peter 2 in preparation for next week