

C. A focused purpose

Peter chooses to focus on one application from the firehose of applications he *could* draw

1 Peter 2:9

Conclusion: An Art Gallery of Images

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

Love the Gospel

- How are you instructed by the “stone” imagery of Peter in Acts 4:11-12 and Jesus in Matthew 21:42?
- What nuances are drawn out about this “stone” imagery in Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22; and Isaiah 8:14?

Live the Gospel

- How does “living stone” imagery effect your perception of your connection to other believers at GCCC? In other churches? Around the world? In days past?
- How can your eyes be trained to see the beauty of the spiritual house God is building using his people as “living stones”?
- How do we stay focused on the specific activities God has called us to as a holy priesthood?

Advance the Gospel

- Share with your CG what it has looked like (in the past and the present) for God to call you out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

Home-Less: A Series in 1 Peter (Part 6) Living (as) Stones

Peter Stonecipher — August 1, 2021

Text: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Introduction: From the Cradle to the Construction Site

I. The Living Stone and living stones (vv. 4-5)

A. God’s building project

“As you come to him...” 1 Peter 2:1-3

Let’s make no mistake, this is *God’s* building project ultimately

B. Many stones, one house

God’s people are living stones (plural) being built up as a spiritual house (singular)

God’s people, collectively, are being built into a spiritual house to rival and exceed the ornate, lavish beauty of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness and the Temple of Solomon

C. New house, new priests, new sacrifices

Hebrews 4:14; 10:14

II. A Precious Cornerstone or a Stone of Stumbling? (vv. 6-8)

A. Background: Peter and Jesus

Acts 4:11-12; Matthew 21:42

B. Further background

Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14

These three passages capture the essence of what Peter communicates about Jesus in 1 Peter 2:4

C. A Precious Cornerstone or a Stone of Stumbling?

“There is no medium between these two things, we must either build on him, or be dashed against him.” – John Calvin

“Christ is laid across the path of humanity on its course to the future. In the encounter with him each person is changed: one for salvation, another for destruction...One cannot simply step over Jesus to go on about the daily routine and pass him by to build a future.” – Leonhard Goppelt

D. Rejected by men...but chosen and precious of God

If Jesus, the chosen and precious Cornerstone of God is rejected by men, how can God's people expect to be treated by men?

“In the first-century Roman society of Asia Minor, did conversion to Christ raise or lower one's social status? Did it bring honor or shame to oneself and one's family?” – Karen Jobes

III. Living as Stones (vv. 9-10)

A. A barrage of new titles

A chosen race → a royal priesthood → a holy nation → a people for God's own possession → God's people → those who have received mercy

Elect exiles → born again → obedient children → holy → ransomed → believers in God → newborn infants

Titles and descriptions and images *do* mean something, and each calls us to live as God's people in certain ways

B. A host of OT references

Exodus 19:5-6; Hosea 2:23