

Week Three: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Peter twice refers to Jesus as being chosen and precious, highly valued, or honored (1:19-21; 2:4). When we come to this Living Stone, we become living stones, incorporated into God's "spiritual house."

As background for this section of 1 Peter, read also the parable of the vineyard in Matt. 21:33-46, and Psalm 118:22-23, which Jesus quotes to explain the parable. Read also Acts 4:1-12, where Peter and John appeared before the Jewish leaders and spoke about the same theme.

1. In 1 Peter 2:4-10, Peter writes several times "you are...." In every instance, Peter used the plural form of "you," emphasizing that this New Covenant community of believers (the church) has a particular identity. What words does Peter use to describe the identity of the followers of Jesus? (see also Paul's letter on the nature of the church, especially Eph. 2:11-22) What is the significance of the language Peter uses? (cf. Ex. 19:5-6)

2. Under the Old Covenant, God had set apart the priests to offer sacrifices and forgiveness, to pray for the people, and to instruct them in his truth (e.g., see Mal. 3:7; Heb. 5:1-5). But now under the New Covenant, *we* are to be a holy priesthood, offering "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." What "spiritual sacrifices" are we to offer? (cf. Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 13:15-16)

Traits of Jesus (1 Pet. 2:4,6)

Traits of Jesus' followers (1 Pet. 2:5-12)¹

A living stone

Living stones

Rejected by humans

Exiles, aliens

In God's eyes, chosen and elect

In God's eyes, chosen and elect

In God's eyes, valued, honored

In God's eyes, royal, beloved

¹ From Daniel Doriani's commentary on 1 Peter, p. 74.

