

## Designed to Be Different

September 30, 2018

Live Different

GODLY LIVING IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

**Open:** If you could come up with an analogy or metaphor for your role in the Kingdom of God, what would it be?

**Read:** 1 Peter 2:4-12

### Discuss:

1. How do each of the four stone metaphors in verses 4-8 provide an appropriate description of Jesus? Peter says that as “living stones” believers are being “built up as a spiritual house” (v. 5). In what sense is this happening? What do you think Peter means by “spiritual sacrifices” (v. 5)?
2. Verse 7 speaks of Jesus’ rejection. What kind of rejection have you faced as a “living stone”? How should our identification with Jesus shape how we view any rejection we might face?
3. In the first half of verse 9 Peter offers four phrases that describe our identity in Christ. How would you explain each of these phrases?
4. Which of the four descriptions of our identity in verse 9 is most meaningful to you? Why? How does knowing that you are all these things shape the way you...
  - ...relate to God?
  - ...relate to other believers?
  - ...relate to unbelievers?
5. Verse 9 calls us to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” What would you have to say to someone about these excellencies? What darkness has Christ called you out of? What does his light look like in your life?
6. In light of verses 11-12, what are examples of behaviors that we should avoid? If, as verse 11 indicates, these behaviors may flow from our passions, then what can we do to avoid them?
7. Why does worldliness have such a damaging effect on our relationship with unbelievers? What do you think the world around you is learning about Jesus from *your* behavior? How do we make sure that our behavior leads to God being glorified (v. 12)?

**Apply:** What’s one change that you can make to better align your life with your identity in Christ?

**Pray:** Pray that our differences with the world become opportunities to glorify God—and that we’ll have the courage to proclaim why we’re different and the desire to live according to our call.

## 1 Peter 2:4-12.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7</sup> 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,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (ESV)