



The Epistles of Peter
1 Peter 2:4-10
From Sermon 11.2.25

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Except for some of the richest, most beautiful descriptions of both the Church and believers, nothing really changes in Peter's encouraging approach. Its pattern remains: Scripture—Conduct—Scripture—Conduct. This famous section contains several vital truths about our new identity in Christ. The sermon and this study could have gone in multiple directions and still be edifying. It again shows the sovereign, monergistic work of God alone in our salvation. At the same time, it further enforces our cooperative work in becoming increasingly holy through obedience and conduct.

1. First, read Peter's Great Confession as recorded in *Matthew 16:15-18*. Review the difference between *Petra* (small stone = Peter) vs *Petros* (mega stone = his statement regarding the deity of Jesus). Now, discuss Peter's (the rock) use of the term "living stone" for this section. It's a completely different word in the Greek: Lithos. This is a chosen, carved stone to be used in construction or ceremony. Jesus is the chosen, perfect Cornerstone and the very foundation of the Church.

2. God the Holy Spirit has Peter describe us also as living stones who comprise a spiritual house. How does that word picture help you in enduring hardships? Various personal answers. We are not alone. We are part of something much larger. I have a unique, needed role in the house of God that also supports all the other believers (stones).

3. Besides living stones, how else does God the Holy Spirit have Peter describe all New Testament believers (the main focus of Sunday's sermon)? As a royal priesthood. See Revelation 1:6 & 20:6

3a. How can we be/become priests of God, if we are not from the tribe of Levi, and the Law of God is immutable? We are New Testament priests through Christ, not Israel. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah and the priestly order of Melchizedek. That is why we are a royal priesthood. Royal from Judah. Priesthood from Melchizedek. See *Hebrews 5:6 & 10* [found originally in Genesis 14]

3b. How would viewing ourselves as authentic priests of God also alter our strength in the inevitable trials and tribulations of life? That view = seeing the magnitude and significance of our holy living. Holy living, then, increases our strength and perspective on trials.

4. Review the Priestly Old Testament Process and the Parallels to our New Testament Priesthood

- Chosen: Why did God choose Abraham? Isaac? Jacob? Levi?
- Cleansed: How have we been cleansed for holy service?
- Clothed: How have we been clothed in Christ? He is our cover. See Genesis 3:21. How does this relate to "put off/put on"?
- Commissioned: Hebrews 4:16 & 10:19-21

5. Read *Romans 12:1 & Hebrews 13:15-16*. List all the sacrifice offerings of New Testament saints. Our bodies = conduct. Putting our whole selves in the offering plate...not the leftovers or Sundays only. Praise. Song. Prayers. Confession. Doing good. Sharing. Treasures.