

The Church in the World

1 Peter 2:4-10

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

⁷ 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,”

⁸ and

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

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

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

Three expressions of the church's identity

The church is God's house for worship
verses 4-5

The church is made up of those who are coming to Christ

The church is a holy priesthood

The church's purpose is to offer spiritual sacrifices

The church is built on God's cornerstone, Jesus Christ
verses 6-8

He came according to God's promise

He came to determine our destiny

The church is God's people who receive His honor
verses 9-10

Who the church is

What the church does

What God has done for His church

Application

Expect to be rejected by the world, but know that you are chosen by God

See your entire life as an opportunity to offer spiritual sacrifices to God

Rejoice that you believe in Jesus Christ

Be faithful to proclaim the excellencies of God in Christ

Marvel at what God has done for you in Christ