

becoming



who

you are

A Spiritual House Under Construction

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1 Peter 2:4-10

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1 Peter 2:4-10

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:4-5a

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house...

What does it mean that we are being built?

To what end?

For what purpose?

What does it mean that we are being built?

A Spiritual House...Under Construction

1 Peter 2:10

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God

1 Peter 2:4

As you come to him, the living Stone...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house...

“A master builder is recognized as such, not only for his ability to rear a magnificent structure after plans prepared by the architect for his guidance, but because of his ability to comprehend those plans, and to skillfully weave together the crude materials which make up the strength, the harmony, the beauty, the stateliness of the edifice which grow in his hands from a made foundation to a magnificent habitation.”

- *The Inland Architect & News Record*

To what end are we being built up?

1 Peter 2:5

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood...

“The New Testament is reluctant to give us the actual name ‘priest’. We are, indeed, ‘a holy priesthood’ (1 Pet. 2:5), ‘a royal priesthood’ (1 Pet. 2:9), and ‘priests to our

God' (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6)...Those are most of the direct New Testament references to our priestly identity...Not only does the New Testament seem to underemphasize it, which is surprising given the amount of priestly imagery and echoes that run throughout, but the church also avoided it for its first two centuries...By the time of the crucifixion, God's people could not proudly wear the name of priest because priests were not, on the whole, an admirable group. The title priest had become connected to power and pride. The early church, however, did immediately adopt a priestly name as its preferred way of identifying fellow Christians—Saint. Saint means 'holy one', from the Latin sanctus. Our priestly identity resides in the word holy. The engraving on the high priest's turban was 'Holy to the Lord' (Ex. 28:36). Priests were always set apart or holy to the Lord."

- Edward T. Welch, *Created to Draw Near: Our Life as God's Priesthood*

"Let everyone, therefore, who knows himself to be a Christian, be assured of this, that we are all equally priests."

- Martin Luther, *Word & Sacrament*

For what purpose?