

# 1 Peter

## A Living Stone

9/2/2001

Reading: [1 Corinthians 10:1-4](#)

Text: [1 Peter 2:4-12](#)

### Introduction:

1. The last time I heard anyone called a rock was Simon & Garfunkel
2. Their definition wasn't quite the same as Peter's.
  - a. Theirs reminds me of an abused person.
  - b. "A rock feels no pain and an island never cries." How sad!
  - c. I've met a lot of people like that. They hold everything in.
3. [1 Peter 2:4-12](#) contrasts that with a picture of hope and security!
  - a. Jesus is a LIVING stone!
  - b. We are like him: living stones making up a spiritual house!
  - c. This passage talks about Jesus as a stone, and compares us to Him.

## #1 Coming To Him

### A. God through Christ is Approachable

1. [Isaiah 55:3](#)—Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David.
2. He wants us near Him.
3. He wants us near Him forever!
4. [Matthew 11:28](#) "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

### B. Rejected by men

1. In spite of being the Son of God, Jesus was rejected, even crucified
2. It reminds us of Jesus own words, [John 15:18-19](#)—"*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*"

### C. Chosen by God and precious

1. Notice the analogy: "as to a living stone" In building a house, stones were selected, some were rejected.
2. Notice the quotation: "elect and precious" [v. 6](#)
3. What we (mankind) thought was of no value, became most valuable!
4. What we (mankind) thought was of great value, became useless!
5. Jesus death planned before the foundation of the world [1 Peter 1:18-20](#)
6. He was chosen. We then, are chosen IN HIM, [Ephesians 1:3-4](#)

## #2 You also!

### A. As LIVING Stones—A Spiritual house

1. Never has the church been a building. I've told you that. You know that.
2. WE are living stones, like Christ.
3. WE are chosen and precious to God through Christ
4. We are the most glorious building
5. We are the most beautiful bride!
6. How ON EARTH can God describe something we cannot understand?

### B. A Holy Priesthood—offer up spiritual sacrifices

1. [v. 9-10](#)
2. [v. 5, 9](#) are the only times the word Priesthood is used this way.
3. It describes a Kingdom of priests [Exodus 19:6](#)
4. It is the whole group of us who are priests, not just one or two of us, or a particular family of us, like Levi, but ALL of US!
5. We are all Holy. We are all Saints. We are ALL Chosen—In CHRIST!

### C. Acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

1. ONLY through Christ—[Acts 4:12](#); [Ephesians 1:3-4](#)
2. [John 14:6](#)—Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. *No one comes to the Father except through Me.*"
3. Jesus is our high priest who opens the way to the Most Holy place, the place where God is and where we shall be forever!
4. Only through Jesus is our worship accepted.
5. Only through Jesus will he hear our prayers!
6. Only through Jesus will our souls be saved!

## #3 Sojourners and Pilgrims!

### A. Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

1. They just hold you back, [Hebrews 12:1-2](#)—lay them aside!
2. Maybe it's family members that hold you back [Matthew 10:37](#)
3. Maybe it's worries and pleasures that hold you back. [Luke 8:14](#)
4. Maybe it's money, or self-preservation, or something else!
5. Lay it aside! Abstain from it!

### B. Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles,

1. There are a few examples coming up in [1 Peter](#) about how to do that.
2. The point is, we are not of this world when we follow Christ.
3. We must be different in behavior, in mentality, and in word
4. Not for our own distinction, but for the worlds and for God's!
5. "That they may glorify God when Jesus comes!"
6. That means we must be influential as Christ's representatives
7. If you have not come to Christ, or have not been living for Christ, you can tonight:
  - a. Obey the gospel—repent and be baptized [Acts 2:38](#); [Romans 6:1-6](#)
  - b. Or, renew your commitment to the Lord