

Week of November 2, 2020: 1 Peter 2:1-12



Discussion Questions Set #1

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:1-2)

“Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24)

“Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” (Colossians 3:10)

“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

1. The above verses point to the reality of a “new self” that comes into being through faith in Jesus Christ. As you think about your own journey of faith, how do you understand this transition to a new self? What has been your experience of this?
2. What is the significance of the finality of 2 Corinthians 5:17 specifically that Paul does not suggest that the old is going and the new is coming, but that the old is gone and the new is here?
3. 1 Peter 2:1 suggests an active participation in the process – we are to “get rid” of certain behaviours. How do you understand the balance between your own active participation in this process and a concurrent yielding to the ongoing work of the Spirit in your life?
4. What do you think Peter means by the phrase “grow up in your salvation”? What might this look like practically? How is this linked to a craving for pure spiritual milk?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“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.” (1 Peter 2:4-8)

We are presented in this text with an incredible metaphor for life as a follower of Jesus and the process of salvation. Discuss what the following components of the metaphor mean to you personally or how understanding these components contributes to your understanding of faith:

- Jesus as “the living Stone”
- Our becoming “living stones” through faith in Jesus
- Jesus as the “chosen and precious cornerstone”
- Jesus as a “stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall”

Discussion Questions Set #3

“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 ... Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” (1 Peter 2:9, 12)

As was mentioned in sermon, these verses present to us not only an understanding of identity, but also an understanding of purpose for the follower of Jesus.

1. Describe how the following identity markers impact your view of yourself:
 - A chosen people
 - A royal priesthood
 - A holy nation
 - God’s special possession
2. Why is it vital to note the communal nature of both our identity and purpose in Christ Jesus? What significance is there that Peter’s listing of things to get rid of in verse 1 are all active community destroying behaviours?
3. How does verse 12 relate to your understanding of – or practice of – evangelism? Give an example of how our corporate life – of which our individual lives are a component - leads others outside of the church to glorify God.