

PETER #15 Jesus Christ our Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:4-10

I. **Christ—the Cornerstone for your Life**

1. On what are you building your life? What's your main focus, your hope?
2. God gives Jesus Christ as a foundation/ cornerstone (2:6; Isa. 28:16)
3. Two responses—accept or reject (2:4, 7b); believe or disbelieve (2:6-7a)
4. Believing & Coming (2:4-7; Isa. 28:16)
 - God's promise—"whoever believes won't be disappointed" (2:6b; Isa. 28:16)
5. Disbelieving & rejecting (2:8; Isa. 8:14)

II. **Christ—the Cornerstone for Israel, God's OT People**

1. Israel chosen as God's people, have God's House (Temple), Priests & Offerings
2. God offered a "cornerstone" to Israel (Isa. 28:16)
3. In the Temple—rejected stone became the Cornerstone (Psa. 118:22-23)
4. Jesus told the Leaders they're rejecting the Cornerstone (Matt. 21:42; Lk. 20:17)
5. Peter told the Leaders they rejected Christ as Cornerstone (Acts 4:11)
6. God respects Israel's choice—"You're not My People; I'm not your God" (Hos. 1:6, 9)
7. "Yet, where it's said, 'You're not My people,' it'll be said, 'Children of the living God'." (Hos. 1:10)

III. **Christ—the Cornerstone for the Church**

1. The Church--the reality of Israel's physical Temple, Priests & Offerings (Jn. 4:21-24; 1 Cor. 3:16-17)
2. The NT believers are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (2:9)
 - "Once you were not a people, but now you're God's people" (1:10; Hos. 1:10; 2:23)
 - "Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you've received mercy" (1:10; Hos. 2:23)
3. We're "living stones," born again to a living hope, thro' God's living Word (2:5; 1:3, 23)
4. Coming to Christ, we're being built up a spiritual house, priesthood, to offer... (1:4-5)
5. The local church/*ekklesia*/assembly is God's house (temple) (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 2:22)
6. Two Purposes of the Church:
 - Offer spiritual sacrifices to God (2:5) Spiritual sacrifices include [1] our bodies, ourselves to God for His service (Rom. 12:1) [2] financial & material support for the Lord's servants (Phil 4:18) [3] our praise & worship (Heb. 13:15) [4] Doing good to others & sharing our resources (Heb. 13:16)
 - Proclaim the excellencies of God who called us into His light (2:2:9)

PETER #15 Jesus Christ our Cornerstone [Supp. Material]

1 Peter 2:4-10 “As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen & precious, 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. For it stands in Scripture: ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen & precious, & whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who don’t believe, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ & ‘A stone of stumbling, & a rock of offense.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 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. 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.” (1 Peter 2:4-10)

I. Christ—the Cornerstone for your Life

1. On what are you building your life? What’s your main focus, your hope?
2. God gives Jesus Christ as a foundation/ cornerstone (2:6; Isa. 28:16)
 - **Note:** In support of the idea that Jesus is the *cornerstone* of God’s temple, Peter cites Isaiah 28:16. Jesus is the elect Messiah whom God has honored by raising him from the dead. Those who put their trust *in him* will enjoy vindication on the last day...will not be put to shame/disappointed ESV.
3. Two responses—accept or reject (2:4, 7b); believe or disbelieve (2:6-7a)
4. Believing & Coming
 - God’s promise—“*whoever believes will not by any means be put to shame/disappointed*” (2:6b; Isa. 28:16) **Note:** God has established a *foundation* for the Zion of his remnant people. That *sure foundation*, embodied in Jesus Christ, is the good news that God saves as no one else can. ESV
 - Believing we experience the honor & preciousness (2:7) ‘*To you who are believing*’ (present tense)
 - Believing we’re God’s people, His chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, etc (2:9-10)
 - Coming to Him (2:4) we’re built as a “spiritual house, holy priesthood,” etc (2:5)
 - Note: ‘*As you come to him*’ (‘*are coming*’--present tense, 2:4) indicates a daily personal relationship with Christ, beginning at (but not limited to) the time of conversion. As believers continue in fellowship with Christ, they “*are being built up as a spiritual house*” (‘*being built up*’ present, 2:5).
5. Disbelieving & rejecting
 - Experience Christ as a “stumbling stone, rock of offense” (2:8a; Isa. 8:14)
 - Based on disbelief/ rejection they’re “destined to stumble” (2:8b)
 - **Note:** In *stumbling*, unbelievers fulfill the prophecy in Isa. 8:14, where the *stone* that God has established becomes the means of their falling. Their stumbling, however, is their own fault, for they are tripped up because of their refusal to obey the “word” of the gospel. ‘*They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*’ Some expositors understand this to teach that God has predestined not *who* will disobey but only what the *result* of disobedience will be for those who disobey (i.e., that those who disobey will stumble)... ESV. “Their disobedience is not ordained, the penalty of their disobedience is” (A. T. Robertson, Vol. 6, p. 98) “These were not appointed by God to disobedience & unbelief. Rather, they were appointed to doom because of their disobedience & unbelief. Judgement on unbelief...is divinely appointed...” (J. MacArthur, Commentary, p. 818)

II. Christ—the Cornerstone for Israel, God’s OT People

1. Israel chosen as God’s people, have God’s House (Temple), Priests & Offerings
2. God offered a “cornerstone” to Israel (Isa. 28:16)
3. In the Temple—rejected stone became the Cornerstone (Psa. 118:22-23)

- **Note:** Psalm 118 describes a festive procession into Jerusalem after some great deliverance. The original occasion ...could be the rebuilding of the temple or the walls of Jerusalem. In later times it was sung at the Feast of Tabernacles as well as Passover. It was evidently recited by the crowds when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday...
 - Psalm 118 reads: *“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them & give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me & have become my salvation. **The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.** This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice & be glad in it.”* (Psa. 118:19-24)
 - These verses use an image from ancient building practices (perhaps...the temple itself). The *cornerstone* is probably the large stone at the corner of the building's foundation tho' some think it is the keystone or capstone of an arch... The *'builders'* are the wise and knowledgeable, & they have *rejected* some particular *stone* as unsuited for this purpose. They were wrong in their judgment... *This is the Lord's doing*, i.e., not a mere human accomplishment. NT writers use this text (e.g. 1 Peter) to indicate that the powerful figures who rejected Jesus. ESV
4. Jesus told the Leaders they're rejecting the Cornerstone (Matt. 21:42; Lk. 20:17)
 - **Note:** At the time of Jesus, Psa. 118:22-23 was already known as a messianic psalm. The opponents of Jesus understand what he means: the “stone” refers to the Messiah. *'Builders'* refer to the leaders of Israel... The new Israel (or faithful Israel) will accept the Son as the rightful messenger, heir, and *cornerstone* of the messianic kingdom... The rejected messianic “stone” is divinely vindicated & established as the cornerstone of a new building [the Church]. ESV.
 - Peter told the Leaders they rejected Christ as Cornerstone (Acts 4:11)—He declared *“To all the people of Israel that ...Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified... God raised from the dead... This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.”*
 5. God respects Israel's choice—“You're not My People; I'm not your God” (Hos. 1:6, 9)
 6. “Yet, where it's said, ‘You're not My people,’ it'll be said, ‘Children of the living God’.” (Hos. 1:10)

III. Christ—the Cornerstone for the Church

1. The Church--the spiritual reality of Israel's physical Temple, Priests & Offerings (Jn. 4:21-24; 1 Cor. 3:16-17)
 - “Jesus said, ‘...the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...The hour is coming, & is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, & those who worship him must worship in spirit & truth’.” (John 4:21-24)
 - “Don't you know that you [plural] are God's temple & God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, & you [plural] are that temple.” (1 Cor. 3:16-17)
2. Jesus Christ is the “living stone,” (2:4) & the Church's foundation & Cornerstone (Eph. 2:22)
 - **Note:** Just as his followers suffer persecution, Jesus Christ also was *'rejected by men.'* Still, He is risen from the dead & hence is the *'living stone'*—the foundation of God's new temple. He is God's elect (*chosen*) one, & as the exalted Lord He is honored above all. ESV
3. The NT believers are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people” (2:9)
 - **Note:** Peter alludes to texts in Hosea that refer to Israel & sees them fulfilled in the church. ESV
 - “Once you were not a people, but now you're God's people” (2:10; Hos. 1:10; 2:23)
 - “Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you've received mercy” (2:10; Hos. 2:23)
4. We're “living stones,” born again to a living hope, thro' God's living Word (2:5; 1:3, 23)

- **Note:** Believers are *living stones* in God's new temple (i.e., *spiritual house*). Since the components that make up the house are "living," the house itself is also growing: '*you yourselves...are being built up.*' Peter sees that the OT temple anticipated the new temple where God dwells (i.e., in his people). But believers are not only God's temple but also a '*holy priesthood*,' which offers *spiritual sacrifices* (cf. Rom. 12:1; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15-16) by the power of the Holy Spirit. ESV.
5. Coming to Christ, we're being built up a spiritual house, priesthood, to offer... (1:4-5)
 6. The local church/*ekklesia*/assembly is God's house (temple) (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 2:22)
 - Paul wrote: "*Do you not know that you [plural] are God's temple & that God's Spirit dwells in you? ...God's temple is holy & you [plural] are that temple.*" (1 Cor. 3:16-17) He also wrote: "*You are no longer strangers & aliens, but fellow citizens...& members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles & prophets, **Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone** ...you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*" (Eph. 2:19-22)
 - "The importance of the 'local' [aspect of the church] is clearly expressed ...by Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17: "Do you not know that you [plural] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." Paul is here talking about the whole [Christian] community in Corinth as "God's temple". This is an astounding thing for a Jew to say; the rather motley collection of Christians in Corinth are actually "God's temple". For Jews, the Jerusalem Temple was the locus of God's dwelling on earth. The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was thus the centre of the theological universe. Yet Paul can say that the Corinthian Christians were now a locus of God's presence, for "God's Spirit dwells in you", & you are hence "God's temple". It is the presence of the Spirit in their midst which makes them God's Temple. Of course, Paul would have said the same about the Christian gathering in other places. The vital point was that they were the location where God's presence was focused in Corinth...They should show forth the presence of the True God... [Also] note Paul's use of "body of Christ" language. In 1 Cor. 12:27 we read: "Now you are the body of Christ & individually members of it." The focus on such language in contemporary discussion is often...spiritual gifts or body ministry. But note in particular that each community to which Paul writes is said to be "the body of Christ" – whether they are in Rome, or Corinth, or Colossae or Ephesus. Each community is "the body of Christ" – not 5% of the body, or a tiny fragment of the body – but "the body". Again, this is to bestow astounding theological significance on each local Christian community. It is very powerful theological language. Hence we can see why the "local" church mattered so much, & why it was so valued. We could see the same phenomenon in 1 Peter, or in Revelation. The "local" church is not a small & incomplete fragment of a larger whole. It is, in itself, crucial, vital. The [Christian] community is God's temple in that place, God's gathering in that place, the body of Christ there. Hence, each small house church matters. As God's people in that place they had a calling – to localize the Gospel there, so that it "belonged", & to critique...what happened in that place, while never forgetting that they belonged to a worldwide movement. I suggest "local" was a very important dimension of earliest Christianity. [Professor Paul Trebilco, "*Global & Local in the NT and in Earliest Christianity*," www.unitingworld.org.au]
 7. Two Purposes of the Church:
 - To offer spiritual sacrifices to God (2:5) Spiritual sacrifices include [1] our bodies, ourselves to God for His service (Rom. 12:1) [2] financial & material support for the Lord's servants (Phil 4:18) [3] our praise & worship (Heb. 13:15) [4] Doing good to others & sharing our resources (Heb. 13:16)
 - To proclaim the excellencies of God who called us into His light (2:2:9)
 - **Note:** The church is a '*royal priesthood*' & God's '*holy nation*'. As God's chosen ones, Christians are to '*proclaim the excellencies*' [or '*virtues, heroic deeds*'] of the one who summoned them from *darkness* & ushered them *into his marvelous light*. ESV.

PETER #15 Jesus Christ our Cornerstone [Script]

1 Peter 2:4-10 “As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen & precious, 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. For it stands in Scripture: ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen & precious, & whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who don’t believe, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ & ‘A stone of stumbling, & a rock of offense.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 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. 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.” (1 Peter 2:4-10)

IV. Christ—the Cornerstone for your Life

6. On what are you building your life? What’s your main focus, your hope?

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Money

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Mansion

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Sports Cars

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Fast & Furious Paul Walker

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Fast & Furious Paul Walker Action

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Make Your Life Story Worth telling

7. God gives Jesus Christ as a foundation/ cornerstone (2:6; Isa. 28:16)

PIX: 1 Peter 2 v6b whoever Believes Not Disappointed

- *“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen & precious, & whoever believes in him will not be put to shame/ disappointed”*
- *“If you trust Christ, God’s corner stone, you will not be disappointed. This stone will not prove faulty. If you build your life on this stone, your life will not crumble in the storm. If you hide behind this stone, you will be safe. If you stand on the truth of this stone, you will not be ashamed. If you join with others in the spiritual house built on this stone, you will be proud of your foundation & your fellowship will stand. “Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed.” -- John Piper*
- If you trust in someone or something else you will be disappointed; you will be put to shame; you will have regrets. Some people give themselves to political/ social causes; they follow people. 2008 many US young people followed Obama—“Yes we can; yes we can...” They handed our flyers, telephoned people, attended rallies, voted for Obama, etc. What about now? “Yes we can”?
- Even as Christians we have to believe/ put our confidence in Christ as our cornerstone. We follow Christ, believe in Christ; take Him as our foundation. If you follow a man, Christian leader, a Bible- teacher, a Christian movement, you

risk being disappointed, put to shame. 1975 in Toronto 5-year plan (1) East coast of US (2) Western Europe (3) Eastern Europe (4) Israel /Jerusalem (5) Jesus returns!

- The 1986/7 the “New Way” program of door-knocking, bathtub baptisms, etc was introduced. We were told a church of 100 could grow to 100,000 in ten years. Only Jesus never fails; He’s the foundation stone, the cornerstone for us & the church.
- **Believing on the Stone: You Can't Lose** If there were a way never to be disappointed or a way never to be ashamed, wouldn't you want to know that way? Peter says: the way is to trust what Jesus will be for you as God's "chosen and precious corner stone." God says, "You cannot lose. You cannot be disappointed in having done this. You cannot be put to shame." That is tremendously encouraging.
- **Disbelieving the Stone: You Can't Win: Human unbelief does not frustrate or defeat the ultimate purposes of God.** If God plans for Jesus to be the chief corner stone, humans can betray him, desert him, deny him, mock him, strike him, spit on him, beat him with rods, crown him with thorns, strip him, crucify him, & bury him—but they cannot stop him from being what God destined him to be, the Living Corner Stone of a great & glorious people.

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Accept or Reject

8. **Two responses—accept or reject (2:4, 7b); believe or disbelieve (2:6-7a)**

9. Believing & Coming

- God’s promise—“*whoever believes will not by any means be put to shame/disappointed*” (2:6b; Isa. 28:16) **Note:** God has established a *foundation* for the Zion of his remnant people. That *sure foundation*, embodied in Jesus Christ, is the good news that God saves as no one else can. ESV
- Believing we experience the honor & preciousness (2:7) ‘*To you who are believing*’ (present)
- Believing we’re God’s people, His chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, etc (2:9-10)
- Coming to Him (2:4) we’re built as a “spiritual house, holy priesthood,” etc (2:5)
- Note: ‘*As you come to him*’ (‘*are coming*’--present tense, 2:4) indicates a daily personal relationship with Christ, beginning at (but not limited to) the time of conversion. As believers continue in fellowship with Christ, they “*are being built up as a spiritual house*” (‘*being built up*’ present, 2:5).

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Reject

10. Disbelieving & rejecting

- Experience Christ as a “stumbling stone, rock of offense” (2:8a; Isa. 8:14)
- Based on disbelief/ rejection they’re “destined to stumble” (2:8b)
- **Note:** In *stumbling*, unbelievers fulfill the prophecy in Isa. 8:14, where the *stone* that God has established becomes the means of their falling. Their stumbling, however, is their own fault, for they are tripped up because of their refusal to obey the “word” of the gospel. ‘*They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*’ Some expositors understand this to teach that God has predestined not *who* will disobey but only what the *result* of disobedience will be for those who disobey (i.e., that those who disobey will stumble)... ESV. “Their disobedience is not ordained, the penalty of their disobedience is” (A. T. Robertson, Vol. 6, p. 98) “These were not appointed by God to disobedience & unbelief. Rather, they were appointed to doom because of their disobedience & unbelief. Judgement on unbelief...is divinely appointed...” (J. MacArthur, Commentary, p. 818)

- **C. S. Lewis said: "We all serve God ultimately, but it makes a great difference whether you serve like Judas or serve like John."**

Christ—the Cornerstone for Israel, God’s OT People

7. Israel chosen as God’s people, have God’s House (Temple), Priests & Offerings
8. God offered a “cornerstone” to Israel (Isa. 28:16)

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Dry Stone Wall

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Dry Stone Wall Cornerstone

9. In the Temple—rejected stone became the Cornerstone (Psa. 118:22-23)
 - **Note:** Psalm 118 describes a festive procession into Jerusalem after some great deliverance. The original occasion ...could be the rebuilding of the temple or the walls of Jerusalem. In later times it was sung at the Feast of Tabernacles as well as Passover. It was evidently recited by the crowds when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday...
 - Psalm 118 reads: *“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them & give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me & have become my salvation. **The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.** This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice & be glad in it.”* (Psa. 118:19-24)
 - These verses use an image from **ancient building practices (perhaps...the temple itself)**. The **cornerstone** is probably the large stone at the corner of the building’s foundation... The **‘builders’** are the wise & knowledgeable, & they **have rejected some particular stone as unsuited for this purpose**. They were **wrong in their judgment...** *This is the Lord’s doing*, i.e., not a mere human accomplishment. NT writers use this text (e.g. 1 Peter) to indicate that the powerful figures who rejected Jesus. ESV

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Jesus Pharisees

PIX: 1 Peter 2 v7 Stone Builder rejected Cornerstone

10. Jesus told the Leaders they’re rejecting the Cornerstone (Matt. 21:42; Lk. 20:17)
 - **Note:** At the time of Jesus, Psa. 118:22-23 was already known as a messianic psalm. The opponents of Jesus understand what he means: the “stone” refers to the Messiah. ‘Builders’ refer to the leaders of Israel... The new Israel (or faithful Israel) will accept the Son as the rightful messenger, heir, and *cornerstone* of the messianic kingdom... The rejected messianic “stone” is divinely vindicated & established as the cornerstone of a new building [the Church]. ESV.
 - Peter told the Leaders they rejected Christ as Cornerstone (Acts 4:11)—He declared *“To all the people of Israel that ...Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified... God raised from the dead... This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.”*

PIX: 1 Peter 2 v8 Stone of Stumbling Rock Offense Disobey

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Hosea Reversal

11. God respects Israel's choice—"You're not My People; I'm not your God" (Hos. 1:6, 9)
12. "Yet, where it's said, 'You're not My people,' it'll be said, 'Children of the living God'." (Hos. 1:10)

V. Christ—the Cornerstone for the Church

PIX: 1 Peter 2

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Christ alone Cornerstone (song)

8. OT Israel had the physical Temple (Jerusalem), the Levitical Priest (Aaron's family) & animal sacrifices. What do we have? Not physical temple, but spiritual Temple (believers in Spirit)
9. The Church--the spiritual reality of Israel's physical Temple, Priests & Offerings (Jn. 4:21-24; 1 Cor. 3:16-17)
 - "Jesus said, '...the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...The hour is coming, & is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit & truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, & those who worship him must worship in spirit & truth'." (John 4:21-24)
 - "Don't you know that you [plural] are God's temple & God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, & you [plural] are that temple." (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

PIX: 1 Peter 2 v4

10. Jesus Christ is the "living stone," (2:4) & the Church's foundation & Cornerstone (Eph. 2:22)
 - **Note:** Just as his followers suffer persecution, Jesus Christ also was '*rejected by men.*' Still, He is risen from the dead & hence is the '*living stone*'—the foundation of God's new temple. He is God's elect (*chosen*) one, & as the exalted Lord He is honored above all. ESV

PIX: 1 Peter 2 v9 But You Are Chosen race

PIX: 1 Peter 2 v9 Chosen People Royal Priesthood

11. The NT believers are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (2:9)
 - **Note:** Peter alludes to texts in Hosea that refer to Israel & sees them fulfilled in the church. ESV
 - "Once you were not a people, but now you're God's people" (2:10; Hos. 1:10; 2:23)
 - "Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you've received mercy" (2:10; Hos. 2:23)

PIX: 1 Peter 2 v5 Living Stones title

PIX: 1_Peter_2_v5 Like Living Stones

12. We're "living stones," born again to a living hope, thro' God's living Word (2:5; 1:3, 23)
 - **Note:** Believers are *living stones* in God's new temple (i.e., *spiritual house*). Since the components that make up the house are "living," the house itself is also growing: '*you yourselves...are being built up.*' Peter sees that the OT temple anticipated the new temple where God dwells (i.e., in his people). But believers are not only God's temple but also a '*holy priesthood*,' which offers *spiritual sacrifices* (cf. Rom. 12:1; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15-16) by the power of the Holy Spirit. ESV.
13. Coming to Christ, we're being built up a spiritual house, priesthood, to offer... (2:4-5)

PIX: Local Church

PIX: Impressive Church Columbia

PIX: Impressive Church Iceland

PIX: Impressive Church Moscow

PIX: Impressive Church Norway

PIX: Impressive Church St. Petersburg

PIX: Impressive Church Oakland USA

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Outdoor Church

PIX: 1 Peter 2 Don't Go to Church be Church

14. The local church/*ekklesia*/assembly is God's house (temple) (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 2:22)

- Paul wrote: *"Do you not know that you [plural] are God's temple & that God's Spirit dwells in you? ...God's temple is holy & you [plural] are that temple."* (1 Cor. 3:16-17) He also wrote: *"You are no longer strangers & aliens, but fellow citizens...& members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles & prophets, **Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone** ...you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."* (Eph. 2:19-22)
- "The importance of the 'local' [aspect of the church] is clearly expressed ...by Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17: "Do you not know that you [plural] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." Paul is here talking about the whole [Christian] community in Corinth as "God's temple". This is an astounding thing for a Jew to say; the rather motley collection of Christians in Corinth are actually "God's temple". For Jews, the Jerusalem Temple was the locus of God's dwelling on earth. The Jewish Temple in Jerusalem was thus the centre of the theological universe. Yet Paul can say that the Corinthian Christians were now a locus of God's presence, for "God's Spirit dwells in you", & you are hence "God's temple". It is the presence of the Spirit in their midst which makes them God's Temple. Of course, Paul would have said the same about the Christian gathering in other places. The vital point was that they were the location where God's presence was focused in Corinth...They should show forth the presence of the True God... [Also] note Paul's use of "body of Christ" language. In 1 Cor. 12:27 we read: "Now you are the body of Christ & individually members of it." The focus on such language in contemporary discussion is often...spiritual gifts or body ministry. But note in particular that each community to which Paul writes is said to be "the body of Christ" – whether they are in Rome, or Corinth, or Colossae or Ephesus. Each community is "the body of Christ" – not 5% of the body, or a tiny fragment of the body – but "the body". Again, this is to bestow astounding theological significance on each local Christian community. It is very powerful theological language. Hence we can see why the "local" church mattered so much, & why it was so valued. We could see the same phenomenon in 1 Peter, or in Revelation. The "local" church is not a small & incomplete fragment of a larger whole. It is, in itself, crucial, vital. The [Christian] community is God's temple in that place, God's gathering in that place, the body of Christ there. Hence, each small house church matters. As God's people in that place they had a calling – to localize the Gospel there, so that it "belonged", & to critique...what happened in that place, while never forgetting that they belonged to a worldwide movement. I suggest "local" was a very important dimension of earliest Christianity. [Professor Paul Trebilco, *"Global & Local in the NT and in Earliest Christianity,"* www.unitingworld.org.au]

PIX: 1_Peter_2_v9 Declare the Praises

15. Two Purposes of the Church:

- To offer spiritual sacrifices to God (2:5) Spiritual sacrifices include
- [1] our bodies, ourselves to God for His service (Rom. 12:1)
- [2] financial & material support for the Lord's servants (Phil 4:18)
- [3] our praise & worship (Heb. 13:15)
- [4] Doing good to others & sharing our resources (Heb. 13:16)
- To proclaim the excellencies of God who called us into His light (2:2:9)
- **Note:** The church is a '*royal priesthood*' & God's '*holy nation*'. As God's chosen ones, Christians are to '*proclaim the excellencies*' [or '*virtues, heroic deeds*'] of the one who summoned them from *darkness* & ushered them into *his marvelous light*. ESV.