

The Epistle of 1 Peter

- ▶ Purpose of epistle
 - ▶ Encourage Christians to remain faithful through sufferings
 - ▶ 1 Peter 4:12, 5:12
- ▶ So far we've seen
 - ▶ Gratitude for the great salvation we have
 - ▶ The inheritance laid up for us is worthy of trial and suffering
 - ▶ Consider how what we have is what even the prophets did not understand and what even angels desire to look into
 - ▶ We need to live holy lives in fear so that we might possess the heavenly reward one day
 - ▶ Because our souls have been purified in obedience to the truth, we ought to have fervent, sincere love for one another
 - ▶ Having been born again, we should desire the word of God in order to grow

2:4-5 As one who has been born again, come to Christ as to a living stone

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by

God and precious,

{5} you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

- ▶ Christ is a living stone described how?
 - ▶ “rejected indeed by men”
 - ▶ “chosen by God and precious”
- ▶ Christians are what, verse 5?
 - ▶ “living stones”
 - ▶ “a holy priesthood”
- ▶ Christians saved to do what?
 - ▶ “offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”

2:6-8 Christ, the chief cornerstone, is a stone of stumbling to the disobedient

“Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’

{7} Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,’ {8} and ‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.’ They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.”

- ▶ What is the promise to those who believe on Christ?
 - ▶ “will be no means be put to shame”
- ▶ Christ is valued as what to Christians?
 - ▶ “precious”
- ▶ But to the unbeliever, Christ is “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”
- ▶ To what are the unbelieving appointed?
 - ▶ “they stumble, being disobedient to the word”
 - ▶ “...and he who disbelieves shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). This is what God has appointed for the one who disbelieves!

2:9-10 Christ, the chief cornerstone, is a stone of stumbling to the disobedient. But those who believe are described in this manner:

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

{10} who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

▶ The church is...

- ▶ “a chosen generation”
- ▶ “a royal priesthood”
- ▶ “a holy nation”
- ▶ “His own special people”
- ▶ a people who “proclaim the praises of Him”
- ▶ ones who are “called out of darkness into His marvelous light”
- ▶ “once not a people but are now the people of God”
- ▶ ones who “had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy”

2:11-12 Christian: living as a sojourner and pilgrim means you will...

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

{12} having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

- ▶ Christians are
 - ▶ “sojourners and pilgrims” (“foreigners and strangers” (NASB))
- ▶ Being sojourners and pilgrims means we will do what, verse 11?
 - ▶ “abstain from fleshly lusts”
 - ▶ “having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles”
 - ▶ Practice “good works”
- ▶ What do fleshly lusts do?
 - ▶ “war against the soul”
- ▶ What is (sometimes) the good result of your good works, verse 12?
 - ▶ The unbeliever comes to glorify God “in the day of visitation”
- ▶ The point in verse 12 is going to be a recurring theme in 1 Peter

2:13-17 Christians' obligations of submission in various relationships.

“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme,

{14} or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.

{15} For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

{16} as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.

{17} Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

- ▶ Christians are to do what in relation to civil authority?
 - ▶ “submit yourselves” – “to arrange under, to subordinate; to subject, to put in subjection....obey, be subject” (Thayer)
- ▶ By doing right, Christians do what, verse 15?
 - ▶ “silence the ignorance of foolish people”
- ▶ Christians have been made free from the bondage of sin, but does that make them free from submission to civil authority?
 - ▶ No
 - ▶ Bondservants of Christ obey civil authority (see also Acts 5:29)

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- ▶ Honor all people
 - ▶ Respect, recognize the value of
- ▶ Love the brotherhood
 - ▶ Agape love; can love those whom you have not seen – 2 Corinthians 8-9
- ▶ Fear God
 - ▶ Reverential obedience
- ▶ Honor the king
 - ▶ Respectfully submit

2:19-21a Christians' obligations of submission in slave relationship

“Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

{19} For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

{20} For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

{21} For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:...”

- ▶ The nature of the master does not determine a Christian's duty
 - ▶ Christians subject themselves to their masters with all fear
- ▶ What is commendable before God?
 - ▶ “because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully”; “you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently”
 - ▶ Two reasons given for behaving this way
 - ▶ “for this is commendable...before God”
 - ▶ “for to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”