

Oceanside Connect Group Outline

Week of June 7th, 2016

AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST

MIKE GRAVES

Key Scriptures:

1 Peter 2:4–11 (ESV)

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you 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. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

[...]

⁹But 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. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Discussion questions from this week’s sermon

The Bible is always referencing us as “a people.” **Who in our culture sees themselves as “a people,” and who wouldn’t use that term?**

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5. **How does the imagery of how Jesus is portrayed here speak to you?**

In what ways, as followers of Jesus, are we also living stones?

Why does Peter say we are “being built up as a spiritual house”? What is the significance of this?

At Oceanside we try not to call a select few of us “pastors.” **How does verse 5 and 9 speak to that?**

What do you think are the “spiritual sacrifices” mentioned?

Peter mentions that we all are a “royal priesthood.” **Does that surprise you? What might it challenge us to step in to?**

As a part of this priesthood, what or who do you see as your “mission field”?

In western Christianity we often speak of an “individual relationship with Jesus” and not so much as “a people.” As well, being called “a people” may be strange to us as Gentiles. **What power is there for us in being called as this people in verses 9 & 10?**

Why does Peter call us “sojourners & exiles” of this world? What things, when we abstain from them, do you see as most positively provoking to the world around us?

Mike said on Sunday: “We can either represent or misrepresent the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.” **In what practical ways can we walk this out?** Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16.