



Key Scripture:

1 Peter 2:4–13 (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.

[..]

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. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Hebrews 10:19–25 (ESV)

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Discussion Questions:

Read 1 Peter 4-5. **In what way were the people being written to “rejected by men”? Is that still true today?**

There’s a difference between the sight of God (v4) and the sight of this world. **What has been a striking example of this to you in the last few weeks?**

The writer describes us as “being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood.” **What is the writer getting at? What is your individual calling within this?**

The Old Testament is full of references to sacrifices, yet it is not something we may think about today. And, since sacrifices always, in some measure, cost the giver something, **what do you think are the “spiritual sacrifices” referenced here?**

Peter uses 4 different designations to describe Christians in verse 9. **What does each one mean to you? Who is Peter comparing us to from the Old Testament?**

1 Peter is a letter written to early Christians suffering through trials & persecution throughout the Roman empire. **How did this calling in verse 9 speak to them? Should it or does it speak differently to us?**

Have there been difficulties this week that knowing your identity based in these terms would have changed? What things would be special about a believer who fully took hold of their identity based on verse 9?

Mike said on Sunday that sometimes we have a “He loves me, He loves me not” relationship with God. Hebrews 9 calls us to a consistent and unwavering relationship with God. **How can we:**

1. **Draw near with a true heart? v22**
2. **Be sprinkled clean from an evil conscience? v22**
3. **Stay true to our confession of hope among others? v23**
4. **Stir up one another to love and good works? v24**

- How can you fit the truth of 1 Peter 2:9 into your daily prayer life?
- Is God calling you to change how you plan & react to things throughout your days based on these two passages?