

Message by John Johnson  
*Who is the Cornerstone of Your Life?*  
February 21-22, 2009  
1 Peter 2:4-10

Questions for Discussion:

1. Read the entire section of Scripture out loud. What is the overall tone of the section? What is the **main point** of this section? Is it implied or explicit?

2. Like most of the letter, this section is written NOT to individuals, per se, but is pointed at people as a group. It seems to imply (strongly) that we are to think of ourselves as a unified group and not necessarily as individuals. What verses show this concept?

Is this a difficult concept for you/us? What changes might we have to make in order to be, think and act as a unified group? Do we lose anything in becoming one of the 'living stones'? What do we stand to gain as a building block of the church of Jesus Christ?

3. What parallel is being made in verses 4 & 5? What does that say of the hope for those who put their trust in Jesus Christ? (hint: living stone)

4. Pastor Johnson mentioned the 'stone' which is Jesus Christ, who stands both as the centerpiece (cornerstone) and the stumbling block. What is the direct impact of Christ as the cornerstone AND stumbling block for our worldview? Does this apply only to Believers or is it broader in application?

What does this mean to those who would say, "There are many ways to heaven/salvation, and faith in Jesus is just one of the ways..."? (ie If Christ Jesus is the orientation-point around which all of life centers, how does one approach the Father without dealing with the person and life of Jesus?)

5. Try to think in terms of the Old Testament priesthood. The OT priests were those who had the responsibility of teaching the Law of God to the people, representing the people in front of God (through the sacrificial system, and intercession), and representing God to the people. This group of people (family of people) was looking forward to something greater and more complete.

What kind of requirements had to be in place for a person to be a priest? Did it matter your gender? Family heritage? Was it a matter of training? Was it an inclusive or an exclusive type of thing?

Contrast this with verse 9. If we are now a 'holy priesthood', what does that mean? Are the old requirements still in place?

(quick answer: No!) How did we all get to become 'priests'? And what is our job as priests, and the 'people of God's possession' then? (v. 9-10)

Since then, we have received mercy, what should our message be filled with? How do we do that? What does it really look like? Is it just 'being nice' and 'forgiving without end' or is it something more/ something else?