



**Life as the
Spiritual
Temple**

**1 Peter
2:4-10**

Hope 1:1-12

Holiness 1:13-2:3

Identity 2:4-4:19

Who Are We?



1 Peter 2:4-5

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ^{NRS}

The Living Stone

Come to the living stone



The Living Word
Verses 22-25



**The Living
Stone**

The living stone rejected by mortals

The living stone chosen by God

A Spiritual House

**...like living stones, let yourselves be
built into a spiritual house,**





The Lord will repay his faithful followers who are so lovingly, so cheerfully, so devotedly carrying out these works, to the effect that he includes them in the construction of his own building, into which they hasten to fit as living stones, fashioned by faith, made solidly firm by hope, cemented together by charity.



Augustine of Hippo, "Sermons 337" Ca 410 AD

Who Are We?

We are...

...to be a holy priesthood

**Now therefore, if you obey my voice and
keep my covenant, you shall be my
treasured possession out of all the
peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine,
but you shall be for me a priestly
kingdom and a holy nation. These are the
words that you shall speak
To the Israelites."** NRS

Exodus 19:5-6

They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth." NRS

Revelation 5:9-10

The Priesthood of All Believers

In fact, we are all consecrated priests through Baptism, as St. Peter in 1 Peter 2:9 says, "You are a royal priesthood and a priestly kingdom "and Revelation 5:9-10, "Through your blood you have made us into priests and kings."

Martin Luther

The Role of Priests

**To direct themselves, and others, in
the proper service of God**

**To serve as a conduit to bring down
God's radiant blessing and influence
into this world.**

As Peter states:

**...to offer spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God
Through Jesus Christ.**

Christ The Cornerstone

Attested to in Scripture: (Isaiah 28:16)

1 Peter 2:6

For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

The cornerstone is precious to believers

**1 Peter
2:7a**

To you then who believe, he is precious;^{NRS}

Not so for non-believers

**1 Peter
2:7b**

...but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"^{NRS}

**1 Peter
2:8**

...and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.



Who Are We?

**1 Peter
2:9a**

**But you are a chosen race, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation, God's own
people,** NRS



**Why has God chosen and set us apart as
holy to be a royal priesthood?**

**1 Peter
2:9b**

**...in order that you may
proclaim the mighty acts of him who
called you out of darkness into his
marvelous light. NRS**

The Royal Priesthood of God, the Church itself, has a single purpose; and that purpose is to “Love Souls” and offer them Christ.





**OH NO!
I FORGOT ...
SOMETHING ...
... BUT WHAT ?**

Have we forgotten that there is a war now being waged for the souls of humanity. Do we love souls enough to enter the battle? Do we love the lost enough to offer them Christ

**John Wesley's admonition to
Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury as he sent to
America in 1771 was...**



"Offer them Christ"

Do not imagine because you are a church member, and a person of good morals, and well respected, that therefore, you are saved. Do you love souls? Do you labor for their salvation, and rejoice over them when they come back to the Father?

Henry Clay Morrison

Everything we do, must be centered on pointing the way to salvation, and the offering of discipleship. We must love souls and offer them Christ. This is our distinctiveness. This is what makes us unique. This is what makes us the people of God.

**1 Peter
2:10a**

Once you were not a people, ^{NRS}

**1 Peter
2:10b**

but now you are God's people; ^{NRS}

**1 Peter
2:10c**

once you had not received mercy, ^{NRS}

**1 Peter
2:10d**

but now you have received mercy. ^{NRS}

Who Are We?

**The People of God Called
To Love Souls, Eveready to
Offer Christ, and to grow
Together Into the Very Image
of the One Who Has Called Us.**

It's Time to renew our commitment to the royal priesthood, and to focus on the "Love of Souls", by setting our hearts, myopically on the "Way of Salvation", Jesus Christ our Lord.



Let Us Pray!