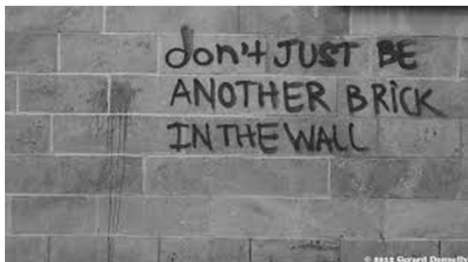


God's Building 10: Becoming Living Stones

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Introduction



1 Peter 2.4-5

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2.4-5

1. Come to Him
2. Become like Him
3. Be built by Him
4. Sacrifice through Him

Come to Him

- 'As you come to him, the living Stone'
- He's a 'Living stone' (2.4) because He's been laid by God (2.6) and is 'rejected by men but chosen by God' (2.4).

Come to Him

- What does 'come to Him' (2.4) refer to?
- Read 1 Peter 1.22-2.12 and discuss:
 - 'obeying the truth' (1.22)
 - being 'born again... of the living word of God' (1.23), 'the gospel' (1.25)
 - having 'tasted that the Lord is good' (2.3; quoted from Ps 34.8!)
 - putting our 'trust in Him' (2.6)
 - 'believing' (2.7)
 - being called 'out of darkness into His wonderful light.' (2.9)

Become like Him

- We become 'living stones' just like Him
- 'you also, like living stones' (2.5): it's only by coming to the Living Stone that you can become a living stone!
 - He is 'rejected by men but chosen by God' (2.4) and so are we (2.9)
 - 'love... deeply' (1.22)
 - 'rid yourselves of all...' (2.1)
 - In order to be 'built into a spiritual house' (2.5) we must destroy the sins that destroy community (2.1).

Become like Him

- 'love deeply' (1.22) by 'ridding yourself of'
- Malice: a desire to hurt someone with words or deeds.
 - Guile: a desire to gain some advantage by deceiving others.
 - Hypocrisy: a desire to be known for what you are not.
 - Envy: a desire for some privilege or benefit that belongs to another.
 - Slander: a desire for vengeance through false accusation.
- Destroy the desires that destroy community!

Become like Him

- '...grow up into salvation' (2.2; 1.5) – How?
- 'As newborn babies, crave pure spiritual ('true to real nature') milk.' (2.2)
 - The Word written (1.23) and gossiped (1.25) conceives and also sustains.
 - 'since you have tasted that the Lord is good' (2.3; quoted from Ps 34.8)
- Ps 34.8: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who hopes in Him.
- Taste is the only sense with ingestion...
 - Babies that 'have tasted' will 'crave'.
 - Deer that pants (Ps 42.1) vs camel...
 - Tozer (1982:6) quote...

Be Built by Him

'are being built into a spiritual house' (2.5)

- 'a spiritual house', not a physical building
- Where is this 'spiritual house' made of 'living stones'?

1 Peter 1.1: Peter, and apostle of Jesus Christ, God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...

God's building is 'scattered' everywhere!

Conclusion

It is only if we come to Him and become like Him that we can be built by Him and sacrifice through Him.

Have you developed a thirst for God by tasting that He is good?
