

DIFFERENT

SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

THE DEFINING STONE

1 Peter 2:4 – 10

May 3, 2026

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MESSAGE NOTES

Cornerstone Defining Statements:

- **As you come to him ...**

As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you 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. – 1 Peter 2:4 – 5 (ESV)

- **For it stands in Scripture ...**

For 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." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. – 1 Peter 2:6 – 8 (ESV)

"... Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.' ..." – Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. – Psalm 118:22 (ESV)

And He will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. – Isaiah 8:14 (ESV)

"Christ is either the stone you build your life on, or the stone you keep stumbling over."

– Charles Spurgeon, paraphrase

- **But you are ...**

But 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. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. – 1 Peter 2:9 – 10 (ESV)

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. – Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week's message from 1 Peter 2:4–10 reminds us that Jesus is the Cornerstone who defines everything. As we come to Him, we are not left on our own but we are shaped into "living stones," built together into something greater. Each of us must decide whether we will stand on Him as our foundation or stumble over Him in resistance. Through His grace, we are given a new identity as God's people and a new purpose to reflect His glory wherever we are placed.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use as many or as few of these questions as are helpful for your group or family discussion.

- Discussion Starter: If your life were a “rock” in a builder’s pile, what kind of rock would you be, and why? Smooth and polished, rough and jagged, oddly shaped, or maybe one you’re not sure fits anywhere?
- Looking at verses 6–8, what does it mean that Jesus is both the Cornerstone and a stumbling stone? What determines whether someone stands on Him or stumbles over Him?
- From verses 9–10, Peter gives several identity statements (chosen people, royal priesthood, etc.). Which one stands out most to you right now, and what does it reveal about who you are in Christ?
- Where in your life right now are you most tempted to build on something other than Christ (success, control, approval, comfort, etc.)? What would it look like to stand on Him in that area instead?
- What is one step you can take this week to “*come to Him*” more intentionally?
- What does it look like for you to be a “*royal priesthood*” in your life and in the lives of others this week? Give an example of what that looks like with friends and with family.
- Where in your life do you need Jesus to be more of your foundation and not something you are stumbling over? Pray for the person on your left after they share.