

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rocky beach. The foreground is dominated by a dark grey, semi-transparent rectangular box with a wood-grain texture. Inside this box, the title text is displayed in white. The background image shows a variety of smooth, rounded stones in shades of brown, grey, blue, and red. A piece of bright orange, branching coral is visible on the right side of the image, resting on the rocks.

A Study of  
1 Peter 2

LIVELY STONES  
IN  
JESUS CHRIST  
– Part 2

## The Epistle of 1 Peter 2 Covers:

1. How to respond to the eternal word of God.  
(1 Peter 2:1-3)
2. Coming to Jesus. (1 Peter 2:4-5)
3. The glory of the Chief Cornerstone. (1 Peter 2:6-8)
4. The privileged place of God's people.  
(1 Peter 2:9-10)
  - a. How those who have come to Jesus are to live.
5. The example of Jesus. (1 Peter 2:21-25)

For more information, see Blue Letter Study Guide

["https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/studyguide\\_lpe/lpe\\_2.cfm"](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/studyguide_lpe/lpe_2.cfm)

# 1 Peter 1:22-25

## Recap / Tie In to 1 Peter 1

<sup>22</sup> Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

<sup>23</sup> Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

<sup>24</sup> For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

<sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

## 1 Peter 2:1-3

1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

2 As newborn babes, *desire* the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

# We Are Made Alive in Christ: Responding to His Eternal Word

We Put off "all malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy,  
and all evil speaking"

(1 Peter 2:1)

This describes the attitude of heart that receives the word and grows by the word. This is a humble, honest heart, willing to *do* what the word of God says.

We Put Off Evil speaking: This Greek word here "katalalia" means slander, or hurtful gossip rather than "profane speech" such as using curse words.

*If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious:* If we have tasted (personally experienced) God's grace, then we have all the more reason to desire His word in an enthusiastic way, like when babies receive their milk.

## We come to the Lord Jesus in Humility

"The Lord resists the proud but gives grace unto the humble" - 1 Peter 5:5

We Are Made Alive in Christ:  
Responding to His Eternal Word

We *Desire* "Pure Spiritual Milk"  
(1 Peter 2:2)

In the Septuagint (an ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament) the word "desire" is used for man's deepest longing for God: *As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God (Psalm 42:1)*. It speaks of the desire each believer should have for the word of God. A healthy new baby has an instinctive yearning for its mother's milk. When things are right, you don't have to tell it to want the milk.

We come to the Lord Jesus through His Word  
- our response to His word should be to  
desire His truth.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. - John 17:17

## The Living Stone and a Chosen People

4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

# We Are Made Alive in Christ: Coming to Jesus

Christians are described as Coming to Jesus as "Living Stones" (1 Peter 2:2)

Peter's picture here is that God is building a spiritual temple (a spiritual house) using living stones (Christians), those who have come to the ultimate living stone (Jesus).

Jesus is first called the living stone; then we are called living stones. We are made alive because we are connected to Him who is the source of life. "It is in union with him that they live, and answer the end of their regeneration; as stones of a building are of no use but as they occupy their proper places in a building, and rest on the foundation." (Adam Clarke's Bible Commentary, Volume 8)

We come to the Lord Jesus and are made  
alive in Him, into a Spiritual temple

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure."  
Phil 2:13

We Are Made Alive in Christ:  
Holy Priesthood, Spiritual Sacrifices

*We are built upon the chief cornerstone  
(1 Peter 2:7)*

**A holy priesthood:** The believer is his own priest before God. He does not need any mediator except his great High Priest, Jesus.

**To offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ:** God does the work of building us, but we do the job of offering sacrifices pleasing to Him, as we come to Jesus as who we are - living stones, made by Him. We can only serve as priests as we do it **through Jesus Christ**. In ourselves, we have no priestly authority, but only in Jesus.

**Chief Cornerstone:** As we are being built into a spiritual house, Jesus is our Chief Cornerstone. Even though men rejected Him, He has become the Chief Cornerstone in the work of building the church.

Jesus is the cornerstone of Psalm 118; the stumbling stone of Isaiah 8; the foundation stone of Isaiah 28; the supernatural stone of Daniel 2; and the rock that gave Israel water in the wilderness (1 Corinthians 10:4).

We Are Made Alive in Christ:  
Holy Priesthood, Spiritual Sacrifices

*We are built upon the chief cornerstone  
(1 Peter 2:7)*

The Chief Cornerstone is rejected by the disobedient and unbelieving. He is precious to those who believe.

Those who reject the Chief Cornerstone and refuse to build on Him will stumble over Him. Instead of being their salvation, Jesus becomes to them a rock of offense. Jesus pioneered a course so that both Jew and Gentile could be joined together into one glorious house for God. This was a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense for the Jews, who thought that Gentiles should not have equal share with them into God's great house.

It is appointed that those who are disobedient to the word should stumble over Jesus. When Jesus spoke of Himself as the stone of Psalm 118, He spoke of what those who rejected Him are appointed to: And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder. (Matthew 21:44)



9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

<sup>10</sup> Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

<sup>11</sup> Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

<sup>12</sup> Having your conversation (**Anastrophe**) honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

# We Are Made Alive in Christ: Our Privileged Position

Chosen, Royal, Holy, Peculiar  
(1 Peter 2:9)

But you are a chosen generation: The things that once exclusively belonged to Israel - their election, priesthood, and calling, are now no longer for Israel alone. These are now the property of every Christian.

"The description of the Church is systematic and exhaustive. It is a race, and this suggests its life principle. It is a priesthood, and so has right of access to God. It is a nation, and so is under His government. It is a possession, and so is actually indwelt by Him." (G. Campbell Morgan, Exposition of the Whole Bible)

The purpose for these privileges is not so we can grow proud, but so that we can proclaim the praises of Him who has done such great things in and for us. Since it is true that believers are a chosen generation, we now have a new access to God (royal priesthood), and a new government (holy nation), and a new owner (His own special people), and it will affect the way the believer lives.

# We Are Made Alive in Christ: How we should live

We should "abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11)

Abstain from fleshly lusts: We can only abstain from fleshly lusts when we understand that we are *sojourners and pilgrims*, recognizing that this world is not our home, but our citizenship is in heaven. Peter understands that to be a Christian means to fight against the lusts of the flesh, and the battle continues as long as we live in this flesh.

We should have honorable conduct around unbelievers. Although they may speak against you as evildoers, they can still be brought to glorify God by seeing our godly conduct.

"The striking fact of history is that by their lives the Christians actually did defeat the slanders of the heathen. In the early part of the third century Celsus made the most famous and the most systematic attack of all upon the Christians in which he accused them of ignorance and foolishness and superstition and all kinds of things - but never of immorality." (William Barclay's Daily Study Bible)

13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

We Are Made Alive in Christ:  
We should respect authority

We should "Submit to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake" (1 Peter 2:13)

We obey the government "for the Lord's sake". Since governments have a rightful authority from God, we are bound to obey them - unless, of course, they order us to do something in contradiction to God's law. Then, we are commanded to obey God before man (See Acts 4:19).

Peter also insists that *governors* are sent by God for the punishment of **evildoers** and for the recognition of those who do good.

Peter knows that our conduct is a way to defend the gospel. People who have never read the Bible will read our lives, so in doing good we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Peter warns against taking the liberty we have in Jesus as an excuse for sin. Instead, we should use our liberty in Jesus to show love and respect all men.

We Are Made Alive in Christ:  
We should respect our employers

We should "be subject to our masters with all  
fear" (1 Peter 2:18)



We obey our employers: We are not only to submit to our boss when they are good and gentle, but also to those who are harsh. If we must endure hardship because of our Christian standards, it is commendable before God.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

# We Are Made Alive in Christ: Jesus is our example

We should "patiently endure"  
(1 Peter 2:20)

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? To be punished for our wrongs is no credit to us. But when we are punished for doing good, and endure it patiently, we are complimented before God.

Jesus is our example as someone who endured punishment unjustly. When He was reviled, Jesus did not revile in return, but in His sufferings, He committed Himself to the Father.

That we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness: Peter reminds us that when Jesus died on the cross, *we also died to sins*. Our life is permanently changed by our identification with Jesus on the cross, even as the Apostle Paul described in [Romans 6](#).

# We Are Made Alive in Christ: We have returned to Jesus

We "were as sheep going astray; but are now returned to the Shepherd and overseer of our souls." (1 Peter 2:25)

By whose stripes you were healed: Peter quotes [Isaiah 53:5](#), which primarily refers to spiritual healing, but also definitely includes physical healing. The provision for our healing (both physically and spiritually) is made by the sufferings (stripes) of Jesus. The physical aspect of our healing is received in part now, but only completely with our resurrection

For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls: If not for Jesus' patient endurance under the persecution of the ungodly, we would still be **going astray**. But because of His work for us, we have returned to our **Shepherd**(pastor) and the **Overseer** (bishop) of our souls.

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