

## WE LIVE IN COMMUNITY

1 PETER 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. <sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.” <sup>7</sup> 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,” <sup>8</sup> and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

- 1. Biblical community brings \_\_\_\_\_ that helps us “put away” the sins in our lives that so easily entangle us. (v.1)**

*Peter is telling these believers to “put away” sin in their lives. Why? Because they don’t have it all together yet!*

- 2. Biblical community develops in us a \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s Word, which will help us “grow up” in our walk with Christ. (v.2-3)**

- 3. Biblical Community helps us learn to \_\_\_\_\_ in all things the way God does. (v.4-6)**

*Being around other Christians that understand this will help us understand it better. And when we drift away from these great truths, it’s our brothers and sisters in Christ that are able to lovingly remind us of the great treasure we have in Jesus!*

- 4. God does not intend for us to be isolated Christians, but \_\_\_\_\_. Isolated stones are not a building. God is building a spiritual house, and you are a vital part of it! (v.5-8)**

*Trusting in Jesus is a personal decision. Following Christ... In many ways, that’s a group project.*

5. “Chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...” Our \_\_\_\_\_ is now found in Christ. He has made us a “new people.” (v.9)

*You were in darkness, but Jesus has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light! Don't forget who you were and who you are now... Dearly loved by God!*

6. And what are we to do? \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus! (Tell people how great Jesus is!) (v.9)

7. None of this is to be done \_\_\_\_\_. We NEED each other.

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**1. Biblical community brings accountability that helps us “put away” the sins in our lives that so easily entangle us. (v.1)**

*Peter is telling these believers to “put away” sin in their lives. Why? Because they don’t have it all together yet!*

**2. Biblical community develops in us a desire for God’s Word, which will help us “grow up” in our walk with Christ. (v.2-3)**

**3. Biblical Community helps us learn to treasure Christ in all things the way God does. (v.4-6)**

*Being around other Christians that understand this will help us understand it better. And when we drift away from these great truths, it’s our brothers and sisters in Christ that are able to lovingly remind us of the great treasure we have in Jesus!*

**4. God does not intend for us to be isolated Christians, but relationally connected. Isolated stones are not a building. God is building a spiritual house, and you are a vital part of it! (v.5-8)**

*Trusting in Jesus is a personal decision. Following Christ... In many ways, that’s a group project.*

5. “Chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession...” Our identity is now found in Christ. He has made us a “new people.” (v.9)

*You were in darkness, but Jesus has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light! Don't forget who you were and who you are now... Dearly loved by God!*

6. And what are we to do? Proclaim the excellencies of Jesus! (Tell people how great Jesus is!) (v.9)

7. None of this is to be done alone. We **NEED** each other.