

## **We are Here For A Reason!**

1 Peter 2:1-10

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—

5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But YOU ARE a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that YOU MAY declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Note in vs. 9, it says... “But YOU ARE a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that YOU MAY declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

### **I. We are here to EXALT the SAVIOR!**

Psalm 107:32 - Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

Psalm 34:3 - “O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”

Psalm 29:2 - “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

Exalt - (Webster) - "To elevate or lift up with joy, pride, or confidence; To praise highly."

Matt. 6:33 - But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

*1. By continual praise...*

Hebrews 13:15 - "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of PRAISE TO GOD CONTINUALLY, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."

Psalm 9:11 - SING the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.

Psalm 33:2 - Praise the Lord with the harp; MAKE MUSIC to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

*2. By good deeds...*

Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your GOOD DEEDS and glorify your Father in heaven.

*3. By fruit bearing...*

John 15:8 - This is to my Father's glory, that you bear MUCH FRUIT, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

*4. By spiritual unity...*

Romans 15:5-6

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,

6 so that with ONE MIND AND ONE VOICE you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*5. By entire consecration...*

1 Cor. 6:20 - For you were bought at a price; therefore GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY AND IN YOUR SPIRIT, which are God's.

*6. Our complete surrender...*

James 4:7 (CEV) - Surrender to God! Resist the devil, and he will run from you.

**II. We are here to EDIFY the SAINTS!**

Romans 14:19 - Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual EDIFICATION.

1 Thess. 5:11 (NKJV) - Therefore comfort each other and EDIFY one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Cor. 14:26b (NKJV) - ...Let all things be done for EDIFICATION.

Edify - (Webster) - "To build or construct; to instruct and improve in moral and religious knowledge, or in faith and holiness."

Edify - (Vines) - "Promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of the believers, by teaching and example."

*1. Through receiving from those appointed to spiritual offices...*

Ephes. 4:11-14 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the EDIFYING of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

2 Cor. 10:8 - For even if I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord has given us for EDIFICATION and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed,

*2. Through speaking the truth in love...*

Eph. 4:15-16 (NKJV)

15 but, SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

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1 Cor. 8:1b (NKJV) - ...Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

*3. Through compassion for the weak...*

Romans 15:1-6 (MEV)

1 We who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of the weak and not please ourselves.

2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to EDIFICATION.

3 For even Christ did not please Himself. But as it is written, "The insults of those who insulted You fell on Me."

4 For whatever was previously written was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

5 Now may the God of perseverance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus,

6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*4. Through the spiritual gift of Prophecy...*

1 Cor. 14:3 (MEV) - But he who prophesies speaks to men for their EDIFICATION and exhortation and comfort.

*6. Through all we do...*

2 Cor. 12:19b (MEV) - "...We do all things, beloved, for your EDIFYING.

Romans 14:19 - Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may EDIFY another.

### **III. We are here to EVANGELIZE the SINNERS!**

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Evangelize - (Webster) - "To preach the Gospel to, and convert; to instruct in the Gospel."

#### *1. By the power of the Holy Spirit...*

Acts 1:8 – "But you will receive POWER when the HOLY SPIRIT comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

#### *2. By preaching the Truth...*

1 Cor. 1:21 - "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of PREACHING to save them that believe."

#### *3. By casting off shame or the fear of man...*

2 Tim. 1:8 - So do not be ASHAMED of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in SUFFERING for the gospel, by the power of God.

Romans 1:16–17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Hebrews 13:6 (NKJV) - So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I WILL NOT FEAR. What can man do to me?"

*4. By being always ready to witness...*

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

*5. Praying without ceasing...*

Isaiah 62:6-7

6 I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will NEVER BE SILENT DAY OR NIGHT. You who CALL ON THE LORD, give yourselves NO REST,

7 and GIVE HIM NO REST till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

*6. Making the most of every opportunity...*

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,  
 16 MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY, because the days are evil.  
 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Colossians 4:5 - Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY.