

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# What Makes You So Special?

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I Peter 2:4-12

## **1 What makes you so special?**

**When I was in high school dad added a family room to our house which included a flagstone fireplace. I remember admiring the beautiful bricks in that fireplace as we enjoyed the fires in the cool evenings.**

**I also remember years earlier when I received a Lego set for Christmas. I spent hours creating all kinds of “buildings” and vehicles. I loved building stuff.**

**You know something? You are in the process of being constructed. 2**

### **I. God is Building You into a Temple - v4-10**

**God is building you into a temple. 3 First Peter, Chapter 2, verses 4 through 10, says, *As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — you 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. 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.” <sup>4</sup>

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for. <sup>5</sup>

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 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. <sup>6</sup>

**This temple is the church. <sup>7</sup> First Corinthians, Chapter 3, verses 16 and 17, read, Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. <sup>8</sup>**

**We, together, are that church. <sup>9</sup> God's Holy Spirit lives here among us. <sup>10</sup> As God's temple, we together are sacred property! <sup>11</sup>**

**Then, Second Corinthians, Chapter 6, verse 16, adds, We are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." <sup>12</sup>**

**God lives and walked among us. <sup>13</sup> We are His special people. <sup>14</sup>**

**Then, Ephesians, Chapter 2, verse 19, continues, Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and**

**members of God's household . . .** <sup>15</sup> Although you are a foreigner and an alien in this world, this temple is where you belong as God's child. <sup>16</sup> You are part of God's household. You fit in here! <sup>17</sup> John, Chapter 14, verses 2 and 3, continues further, **I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.** <sup>18</sup>

Then, Hebrews, Chapter 3, verse 6, follows, **But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.** <sup>19</sup> From this passage we understand that Lord Jesus is the one in charge. <sup>20</sup> You are the Lord's house, His temple, as long as you remain faithful to Him! <sup>21</sup>

Lord Jesus is the chief cornerstone of this temple. <sup>1</sup> <sup>22</sup> Ephesians, Chapter 2, verses 20 through 22, identify

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<sup>1</sup> v6 - 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."

Him as such, . . . built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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The Cornerstone <sup>2</sup> is the extreme angle or corner. So it's the chief corner of a building. The walls are lined up in each direction based on this cornerstone. <sup>24</sup>

Verse 7 tells us that Lord Jesus, as the chief cornerstone, was rejected by the world as not being suitable enough. <sup>3</sup> He didn't come from the right family. He didn't teach or obey the right "pet" doctrines. <sup>25</sup> Verse 8 tells us that the world stumbles

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<sup>2</sup> ἀκρογωνιαίος.

<sup>3</sup> v7 - Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"

over Him because they don't accept the gospel message of salvation. <sup>4</sup> <sub>26</sub>

What you need to understand is that you are a living brick! <sup>27</sup> Living bricks are holy royal priests. <sup>5</sup> <sub>28</sub> Holy <sup>6</sup> means sacred, set apart for a special purpose. <sub>29</sub> Royal <sup>7</sup> is like a king! <sub>30</sub>

Verse 9 states that you are chosen! <sup>8</sup> Why would God choose you? <sub>31</sub> Notice verse 10's answer, 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. Because you needed to be accepted. God made you His people, a holy nation belonging to

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<sup>4</sup> v8 - "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>5</sup> v5 - . . . you 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.

<sup>6</sup> ἅγιος.

<sup>7</sup> βασιλῆιος.

<sup>8</sup> v9 - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Him. <sup>32</sup> Verse 10 tells us another reason, you needed mercy. God provided that mercy by forgiving you all your sins. <sup>33</sup>

Since God is building you into His temple . . .

## II. How Can You Become a Usable Brick? - v11-12

. . . How can you become a usable brick? Verses 11 and 12 show you how. <sup>34</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. <sup>35</sup>

As a royal priest, you offer spiritual sacrifices. <sup>36</sup>

This is done by teaching. Romans, Chapter 15, verse 16, says, **Be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles**



with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God. <sup>37</sup>

This is done by mediating between God and other people in the world. That's what priests do! <sup>38</sup>

This is done by offering your body as a living sacrifice in worship. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>9</sup> <sup>39</sup>

This is done by renewing your mind. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>10</sup> <sup>40</sup>

As a chosen people, don't stumble over the chief cornerstone. <sup>41</sup> Verse 8 says you must obey the

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<sup>9</sup> Romans 12:1.

<sup>10</sup> Romans 12:2.

message and accept Jesus as Lord. <sup>11</sup> <sup>42</sup> Verse 5 tells us that you are usable for God's building purposes when you are teachable. <sup>12</sup> So be teachable! <sup>43</sup>

As an alien and a stranger to the world, abstain from sinful desires. <sup>44</sup> Verse 11, **Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.** The phrase, sinful desires <sup>13</sup> means passionate longing, lust. <sup>45</sup> Those in the world may ridicule your straight lives now but will eventually commend them when the Lord comes again! <sup>14</sup> <sup>46</sup>

So, what makes you so special? You're a brick God is molding into His holy temple! So - be a usable one!

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<sup>11</sup> v8 - They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>12</sup> v5 - . . . you 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.

<sup>13</sup> ἐπιθυμία.

<sup>14</sup> v12 - Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

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