

Our Position in Christ

I Peter 2:1-10

- I. **NEWBORN BABES- v. 1-3**
 - a. Wherefore- referring back to 1:23-25
 - i. Now that we have been born again
 - ii. Because we have the incorruptible word of God
 - b. Laying aside- Put away- in the Christian's life there is the positive aspect and the negative aspect (battery)
 - i. Malice- anger, unforgiving spirit, bitterness
 - ii. Guile- using cleverness to deceive; giving the wrong impression (Ananias and Sapphira)
 - iii. Hypocrisy- pretending to be something you are not- putting on a mask
 - iv. Envy- jealousy, covetousness
 - v. Evil speaking- slander, gossip
 - c. Right desires- The word desire is strong word in the Greek referring to man's deepest longing
 - i. "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."
 - ii. A healthy new baby has an instinctive yearning for its mother's milk- you don't have to tell it to want the milk!
 - iii. V. 3- Since we have tasted (personally experienced) that the Lord is gracious, then we have great reason and responsibility to receive the word in the enthusiastic way that babies receive their milk.
 - d. That ye may grow- this is a vital part of our spiritual growth!
 - i. The sins mentioned earlier stunt our growth, but the Bible helps foster our growth!
 - ii. As we grow, we can handle the meat of the Word (I Cor. 3:1-2)
 - iii. It is a blessing to see Christians grow and become mature, sadly many remain immature as babes

II. **A SPIRITUAL HOUSE- v. 4-8**

- a. This is referring to the Church!
- b. Peter is teaching that we are used as God's building program! –v. 5
 - i. Living stones- The only reason we are suitable materials is because of our identity in Christ- He is the Living Stone who gives us new life!
 - ii. All Christians make up this spiritual house, we are living building blocks- Eph. 2:22
 - iii. This is God's temple today (His physical habitation/dwelling place)
 - iv. The OT temple however was made up of lifeless, perishable materials- we are living stones!
- c. Jesus is our Cornerstone- v. 6-8
 - i. Jesus changed his name from Simon to Peter (little rock/stone) and said "upon this rock I will build my church!" not referring to Peter, but to Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah
 - ii. Chief cornerstone was predicted back in Isaiah 28:16
 - 1. Christ is precious –He is unique, and there is none like Him- he was chosen, elected by God
 - 2. This means Jesus is dependable, trustworthy, reliable, constant, and faithful!
 - 3. How firm a foundation- "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not, I will not desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"
 - 4. Cornerstone in modern architecture is placed at the base of one corner where it binds two walls together and symbolizes the foundation on which the entire building rests. (Jews and Gentiles)
- d. The rejected stone (disallowed)- to those who don't believe/ are disobedient
 - i. Incredible as it may seem, this stone has been rejected by men
 - ii. In their selfish and foolish blueprints for life, these folks find no place for their Creator or Redeemer! He is chosen in God's sight, but not in the world's!
 - iii. Illustr- The tradition of Solomon's temple builders

- iv. I Cor. 1:23- But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
- v. When eternity comes, many will realize their folly!
- vi. The rejected stone, the stumbling stone – the key is disobedience. They do not want to be saved!
- vii. The rejected stone will come again in judgment- Isaiah predicted that He would be rock to make men fall if they did not believe, He is the smiting stone in Daniel 2:34, and the crushing stone of judgment- Matt 21:44

III. **ROYAL PRIESTHOOD**- v. 5, 9-10

- a. Peter's idea isn't that God has abandoned Israel or that they have no place in His redemptive plan, but that Christianity is in no way inferior to Judaism. Remember he is writing to scattered, discouraged Jewish believers. God is not through with Israel! (Romans 11:1, 26)
- b. This is not replacement theology, it is simply our position because of Christ
 - i. Earthly people v. heavenly people
 - ii. Land vs. spiritual possessions and rewards
 - iii. The church is special and belongs to God as Israel has temporarily been set aside
- c. Under Mosaic Law, the priesthood was limited to the tribe of Levi and family of Aaron. And even those priests were forbidden to enter into the Presence of God except for the High Priest on the Day of Atonement
- d. All believers in this dispensation now have **access** to the Throne Room at any moment!
- e. God does the work of building (being built), but we as priests do the job of offering sacrifices pleasing to Him- v. 5
 - i. Spiritual sacrifices as opposed to animal
 - ii. Rom. 12:1- our own selves as living sacrifices
 - iii. Our possessions
 - iv. Our service and praise to God- v. 9
- f. V. 10- The promise to Hosea will be fulfilled!

Conclusion: When we examine our position in Christ and its responsibilities, we must never be filled with pride. It is all based on God's mercy! The only difference between me and the sinner on the street is that I have obtained mercy! That's what ultimately defines our identity in Christ.