

God's Design for the Church

1 Peter 2:1-10

"A People for God's Possession"— August 7, 2022



Introduction

Living through a global pandemic has caused us to think more thoughtfully and carefully about our life. We have done the same thing in relation to church life. We don't want to miss the opportunity to look at God's word for what He intends for His church. We want to come to God's word with fresh eyes and open hearts to see what God wants His church to do and be.

In light of the salvation received in Christ, Christians are called to live as God's chosen people. What does that look like?

Sermon Outline

1. Pursue Holiness Vs.1-3
2. Proclaim God's excellencies Vs. 4-10

Read & Discuss

1) Read vs. 1-3

The word, "so" indicates a connection to the previous thought in the text. ([Chapter 1:22-25](#)) The end of chapter one leads to a call to holiness in relationships with one another. There are many things that seek to tear apart our relationships - culture, ethnicity, marital status, political beliefs, etc. But the thing that draws us together is the same - the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is enough to bind us together. It is everlasting and all encompassing.

Part of God's good design for the church is to pursue holiness in our relationships with one another. Is there something holding you back from this? Are you holding onto bitterness or a lack of forgiveness?

God is honored and glorified by our pursuit of holiness. We must concentrate on the things that will bring about growth in the Christian life. There should be a hunger for God's word and fellowship. How are you currently pursuing growth in faith with God's people? If you put in the time, you will grow.

As you are seeking to grow in your faith, if you find that the direction that you are getting is leading you away from God's people, that is likely not a good resource. God's word directs us to spiritual growth in community. When we look at times of growth, we can often point to people who helped us during that a time.

Additional Reading: *Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:25*

2) Read vs. 4 – 10

Here Peter turns his attention to the foundations for the Christian. Peter tells the Gentile Christians that they are now the chosen people of God. Peter uses a word picture of a building. ([Is 28:16](#), [Ps. 118:22](#)) Jesus is the Life-giving Stone in the spiritual building. He is the foundational stone upon which the whole spiritual building is held together. He was rejected by man ([Is. 53](#)), but in the sight of God, Jesus was chosen and precious. Jesus is the Stone upon which the church is built.

As you have come to Jesus in faith, you now are called to be "living stones" in God's new spiritual building. This building is not one built with hands, but the one who owes its entire existence to the Spirit of the Living God - neither bound by external qualities of the flesh nor able to be demolished.

God intends for the whole body to perform priestly duties. The spiritual sacrifices involve living a lifestyle of worship to a Holy God. ([Romans 12:1-2](#)) It is surrendering all that we have to the One who redeemed us from sin. It is doing what we need to do to conform our minds to Christ. It is being willing to do what He calls us to do and go where He calls us to go. What are some of the simple, everyday ways in which you can live a life of worship? What do you need to change or focus on to transform your mind to the mind of Christ? What might you need to surrender to God? What is God calling you to do?

Do you struggle with everyday spiritual sacrifices? These spiritual sacrifices are only available through Jesus Christ. We must rely on the perfect sacrifice of Christ to even have a relationship with a Holy God. Because of Jesus, we can approach the throne of grace boldly. ([Hebrews 4:16](#))

The church consists of those who believe in Him and offer their spiritual sacrifice through Him alone. This implies trust and commitment.

To the unbeliever, Jesus is a stumbling stone. As they go along their way, they don't even see what causes them to stumble. There is a peace that only Christ can provide. You must be able to acknowledge your sin, repent and trust. Have you experienced the peace of God by confessing sin, repenting and trusting in Christ?

We all were once the unbelieving, stumbling, rejecter of Jesus. But God in His extravagant grace has moved us from darkness to light. We are His chosen people. We present ourselves as one of the living stones along with God's people. Nothing screams of the glory of God like the church of Jesus Christ. ([Ephesians 3:8-12](#)) The church is built of broken sinners saved by the glorious grace of God.

We proclaim His glory in the everyday things of church life. It's praying for one another, remaining faithful in suffering, encouraging one another, etc. In all these simple ways, we build up the spiritual temple of the church and proclaim His excellencies. Is there someone who needs a word of encouragement from you today? Is there someone for whom you need to pray? What are some practical things you can do to build up the body?

God intends for believers to be committed to a local church that is proclaiming the excellencies of God.

Additional Reading: *Matthew 21:33-42; Acts 4:5-12*

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Titus 1:1-9](#) "Finding Faithful Elders"