

Courageous Series
Week 4 outline
1 Peter 2:1-12

Building Up with Living Stones

I. Living in Darkness, Isolation, and Judgment

- A. Living in Darkness
 - searching in the dark for direction and meaning
- B. Separated and Alienated
 - from God and from others
- C. In a World of Judgement,
 - with shifting morality, blame, and shame

LIVING IN DARKNESS, ALIENATION, AND JUDGEMENT
CAUSES US TO BE TIMID, DISTANT, AND FEARFUL;
BUT CHRIST COLLECTS US, CONNECTS US, AND CALLS US TO THE COURAGEOUS.

II. JESUS EQUIPS US TO GROW UP; GATHERS US TO BUILD UP; AND CALLS US TO LIFT UP.

Peter paints three vivid pictures:

The **INTIMACY** of a baby breast feeding

The **INTEGRITY** of a stone house under construction

And the **IDENTITY** of a new and chosen people declaring the praises of God

A. NEWBORN BABIES EQUIPPED TO GROW UP (vs 1-3)

1. "Therefore"
...in the light of *"this is the word (living and enduring) that was preached to you..."*

2. "Rid Yourself"
 - a. Malice
 - b. Deceit
 - c. Hypocrisy
 - d. Envy
 - e. Slander

OBEDIENCE IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP, NOT WORK.
IT'S IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE, NOT THE REASON FOR GOD'S LOVE.

3. Like Newborn Babies
 - a. Crave: to long for

- b. Pure: unadulterated and uncut
- c. Spiritual: from *logikos*- adjective form of the word "logos":
 - reasonable
 - divine knowledge
 - the word of God
- d. Milk: essential nourishment and protection
 - the perfect food for a newborn

CRAVE THE UNADULTERATED MILK OF THE WORD

B. LIVING STONES GATHERED TO BE BUILT UP (vs 4-8)

1. *"As you come to [Jesus]"* -vs 4
 - Jesus is the Cornerstone on which our spiritual house is built
2. Jesus is the cornerstone, architect, and builder.
 - He collects and connects us
 - as members of His spiritual house called the Church

C. A CHOSEN PEOPLE CALLED TO LIFT UP (vs 9-10)

1. Our New Identity
 - A Chosen People
 - Royal Priesthood
 - Holy Nation
 - God's Special Possession
2. Our New Glory: *"that we may declare the praises of him who..."*
 - Called us out of darkness and into HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT
 - "Once NOT a people, but now THE PEOPLE OF GOD"*
 - Once no mercy but now YOU HAVE RECEIVED MERCY

III. ...So Live the Beautiful Life (vs 11-12)

- A. As Foreigners and Exiles
 - a sojourner- literally, someone "passing through" but still with personal relationship with the people in that locale
- B. Abstain from sinful desires
 - waging war against your soul
- C. Live Such Good Lives
 - even though you are accused of doing wrong
 - they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits

JESUS EQUIPS US TO GROW UP
GATHERS US TO BUILD UP
AND CALLS US TO LIFT UP