

Coming to Him, a living stone—rejected by men but chosen and valuable to God—you yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: **Look! I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and valuable cornerstone, and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame!** So the honor is for you who believe; but for the unbelieving, **The stone that the builders rejected—this One has become the cornerstone, and A stone that causes men to stumble, and a rock that trips them up.** They stumble by disobeying the message; they were destined for this. But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises** of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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- Only upon coming to Jesus can God do anything with us
  - Coming in salvation, in prayer, in humility, daily.
  - God can use anything, but He doesn't force them.
- The church is the spiritual house
  - Not the building, but in the people of God individually and corporately.
  - We take care of the house of God by making sure myself and those around me are being good Christians.

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- Ultimately Jesus is always the problem.
  - Either they say He can't really be man; he never existed, or all men have sin so no one is perfect.
  - Or they say He can't really be God; He was just another man, not perfect absent of god-like powers, won't give allegiance to Him
- The people who have a problem with Jesus have a problem with the Gospel.
  - They can never see how the world can be ruled by love.
  - They will find some problem with any and every statement made about God.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- The church is God's pride, plan, and property.
  - He's proud of us, just like you would be as proud as me if you had such a beautiful boy and hot wife.
  - He gives us a special designation and status. We are to be distinct from everyone else.
  - He is a jealous God, and He wants us all to Himself.
- With such a special stature though comes responsibility.
  - The two are inseparable, so you can't be God's and keep quiet about Him outside of church.
  - Our responsibility is to try to bring in more people from the darkness into the light of God's love.