

The Little Glorious Church

1 Peter 2:4-10

- Devotion to Jesus INCREASES incorporation in the CHURCH.
1 Peter 2:4-5
- The church finds Jesus to be VALUABLE and never-FAILING, while those who do not believe find Him to be WORTHLESS and OFFENSIVE.
1 Peter 2:6-8
- God's people are given a new IDENTITY as the church.
1 Peter 2:9-10

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. How would you define the church? What are some ways that the church is incorrectly defined today?
2. Read 2:4-5. In your life, how have you seen the truth that "devotion to Jesus increases incorporation in the church" work itself out? What does it look like when we get this backwards? Is it a problem to get this backwards?
3. What do you think is behind the picture of Jesus as a living stone, and us as living stones with Him? Take some time to discuss the different biblical pictures Peter is alluding to in 2:4-5. (See Isaiah 8:13-15, 28:16; Psalm 118:22; Matt 3:9; Daniel 2:34-35, 2:44-45; Matt 21:33-44; Eph 2:19-22; Heb 3:3-6; Mark 13:1-2; Rom 12:1).
4. If we are the temple of God, and the priests of God, how should that change how we think about the church? What are some ways you are tempted to make the church about things it shouldn't be about?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:6-8. Describe the two groups of people we see in these verses, and the contrast between them.
6. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. What about this description of our new identity as Jesus' church stands out to you? Why? (For the background of these phrases, see Isa 43:20-21; Ex 19:5-6; Hos 2:23; Mal 3:17)
7. How can we "proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" more regularly?

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle