



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 16th January 2022

Living stones that grow in hope. 1 Peter 2:1-10

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

1 Peter 2:1-10

² Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—

⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Comment

- We are Living Stones not Bricks!
- This “living stones” metaphor comes put of Peter’s individuality & personhood (remember his name was changed from Simon to Peter which means ‘Rock’. We don’t loose who we are when we join the church!
- Bricks are uniform and controlled and in Jewish thinking, brickmaking would have been associated with former slavery in Egypt) but living stones are all sorts of shapes and sizes, requiring care and creativity to fit together compactly.
- Living things grow and change - so the local church will grow and change and that’s good! In fact we need to grow up like new-born babies craving the nourishing milk of God’s Word to us.
- God is not violent with us to make us fit the church, but, once baptised, he takes us as we are and gives us all the tools we need to live life in community.
- We need each other to live aligned to Christ. Sin can be defined as ‘living out of alignment’ which causes knock-on effects for the other ‘living stones’ around us.
- God is building a Glorious House that attracts and transforms the World.

Questions

1. What are some of the best things about belonging to a local church?
2. What is the hardest thing about belonging to this local church? - And how do I handle that?
3. Who are the other stones who help me stay in place- “aligned” to Christ?
4. How can the church help us be (feel) more like “living stones” and less like “bricks”?
5. Understanding that all living things - eg families - grow and change: How can we, not only cope with those changes, but rejoice in them?
6. How can we keep a vision of for the Church that is GLORIOUS?