



PARK STREET

BRETHREN CHURCH

April 11, 2021

The Church (1 Peter 2:1-10)



The Message of Faith

1 Peter 2:1-10

¹ 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.

1 Peter 2:1-10

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.

1 Peter 2:1-10

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.

1 Peter 2:1-10

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.

1 Peter 2:1-10

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.

1 Peter 2:1-10

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.

God's purpose in human history is to form a people for His own glory. This purpose, begun in the Old Testament nation of Israel, is continued in the New Testament church, which is founded upon Jesus Christ.

He calls it to be a visible body of His followers, extending His own ministry in the world. It is composed of all who have received Him as saving Lord and have committed themselves to being His faithful disciples.

This one body finds expression in local communities of believers who are responding to the call of God. Through mutual submission they covenant together for the purposes of worship, nurture, evangelism, and service.



The Message of Faith

Faith & Politics (Church Governance)

- Rise of Catholic Church – Monarchical style of government
 - Emperor & Pope
- Rise of Protestant Territories – Republican style of gov.
 - City/Territorial Councils and Clergy
- Rise of American Denominations – Democratic gov.
 - Congregational/Conference Voting
- Is the church supposed to take its cues from the world alone?

Images of the Church in the New Testament

- People on Pilgrimage
- People of the New Order
- People of God
- People of Transformation

The Church as a Peculiar People

- Chosen People – the church is the elect people of God.
- Royal Priesthood – we are all priests in this heavenly city.
- Holy Nation – the church is a politic above the politics of this world.
- God's Special Possession – we are constituted by God's presence in us.
- The church is called to be a politic.

“We would like a church that again asserts that God, not nations, rules the world, that the boundaries of God's kingdom transcend those of Caesar, and that the main political task of the church is the formation of people who see clearly the cost of discipleship and are willing to pay the price.”

-Stanley Hauerwas & Will Willimon



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