



Keep Building

(1 PETER 2:1-6)

Living Stones series

By Pastor David Hillis, 01.05.20

BIG IDEA: God continues to build a community, a strong spiritual house among you at Grace, and its strength comes in part from your life as one of its living stones.

1. *The living stones of our lives build a strong house here as we:*

a. Keep growing together.

[\(1 Peter 1:22, 24-25a; 2:1-4\)](#)

- i. Peter encourages them to love each other in the Church deeply with all their hearts, and to stay rooted in Scripture so that they don't sway like the reeds or grass.
- ii. Peter appeals to them and us to shake off the sins that so easily trip us up over and over; to resolve to just put them behind us.
- iii. He encourages them to be intentional, actively involved in growing together.

2. *The living stones of our lives build a strong house here as we:*

a. Keep worshipping & serving together.

[\(1 Corinthians 3:4,16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5-6\)](#)

- i. Christ's Church is not a building, it is you. *You* are the Church!
- ii. You *are* God's temple, and that temple is being built in you stone by stone as you live in Him.
- iii. Ephesians 2 says God *carefully joins us together* into spiritual houses like these, with Christ as the cornerstone.
- iv. You're not a faithful shopper or consumer here, just shopping for and consuming spiritual food!
- v. A *spiritual sacrifice* is an offering of the self, expressed in praise and worship and through doing good.

- vi. We are to serve together; to love each other and the world, to practice hospitality and use our resources and our giftedness to help people come to know and fall in love with God.

NEXT STEP: How can I be a “living stone” at Grace? How does God want to grow me here and use me to help serve others in 2020?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. Review [1 Peter 2:1-6](#). How does Peter encourage the Church to live as “living stones”? How has Christ been my cornerstone in life this past year? In what ways does God want me to fit into His spiritual house here at Grace?
2. The Apostle Paul uses rock/stone imagery as well as Peter, to describe how Christ is our cornerstone who makes it possible for us to be built up around Him. Read [Romans 9:30-33 & 1 Corinthians 10:1-5](#), looking particularly at what Paul was trying to teach about Christ with this rock/stone imagery. You might also want to read [1 Corinthians 3](#), where Paul deals with disagreements in the Church around whose leadership to follow; as you read, pay careful attention to verses 9-17.
3. This week we realized that God doesn’t dwell here at Grace on La Cholla, but He can dwell in each of us. We as the people of God bring Christ into the campus at Grace every time we are here, just as we bring Christ into the community. Peter says in our Scripture this week that we are the temple of God; Paul shares the same thing in passages like [1 Corinthians 3:12-17, 6:15-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 and Ephesians 2:19-22](#). Study these passages this week and meditate on what it means to be Christ’s temple, made in His image and carrying His light wherever you go. Knowing that, how does it change how you live out your ordinary days?
4. In [1 Peter 2:5](#), Peter talked about the spiritual sacrifices we offer to God together as a result of growing together. A spiritual sacrifice is an offering of the self ([Romans 12:1](#)), expressed in praise, thanksgiving and doing good ([Hebrews 13:15-16; Romans 15:16; Philippians 2:17,4:18](#)), and offered with the right attitudes and motives toward God and His people ([Micah 6:6-8](#)). Spend some time with these Scriptures, considering what offering yourself as a spiritual sacrifice is meant to look like these days on this leg of your spiritual journey with Christ.
5. Next Sunday we will conclude our series our years together by taking a look at [1 Peter 2:7-12](#). We will discuss what it means to be living stones in context of being Christ’s beloved, an identity flushed out further with 4 qualities or characteristics in verse 9. To prepare for that message, spend some time with these verses and talking with God about how He sees you in light of these qualities.

RESOURCES:

- Grace lives out its vision as its attenders live out what we call the “4 Spiritual Commitments.” See those [HERE](#).