

Jesus - Chief Cornerstone **1 Peter 2:4–8 (NKJV)**

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” 7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” 8 and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Peter moves on to another blessed privilege that we have in Jesus Christ.

Our union with Him.

Have you ever been a part of something and yet wondered if you were really a part of it.

We trust that you do not feel that way about FBC church.

But definitely we are part and partial with Jesus Christ.

He is foundation on which all Christian lives are built.

1 Corinthians 3:9–11 (NKJV)

9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Our foundation is not politics or sports or even America.

As God’s people Jesus Christ is the foundation of all we are and do.

Some want to be a part of what goes on in Washington D.C.

Others want to be a part of Broadway or Hollywood.

But we have the great privilege of being a part of Jesus Christ to be a part of God’s building.

I. Peter establishes Jesus as the stone.

A. Why a stone.

1. In Israel stone is abundant.
2. It was the best and enduring building material.
3. It was strong and provided a perfect defense.

B. This is just one of many illustrations for Jesus and His followers.

1. Sheepfold
2. Vine
3. House
4. Building
5. Branch
6. Morning Star
7. Bread
8. Water
9. Door
10. Lamb
11. Lion
12. Root (of David)
13. Rose of Sharon
14. Truth
15. The Word

C. The foundation stone.

1. As our foundation.
 - a. Isaiah 28:16 (NKJV)
 - (1) 16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.
2. As the foundation of Christianity.
 - a. Ephesians 2:18-20 (NKJV)
 - (1) 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,
 - b. SLIDE Peter wrote this letter to believers living in five different provinces, yet he said that they all belonged to *one* “spiritual

house.” There is a unity of God’s people that transcends all local and individual assemblies and fellowships. We belong to each other because we belong to Christ. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 401.*

D. As the foundation of every church.

1. Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

a. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

2. SLIDE Believers are living stones in His building. Each time someone trusts Christ, another stone is quarried out of the pit of sin and cemented by grace into the building. *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 401.*

II. The stone of offence.

A. Foretold in prophecy.

1. Psalm 118:22 (NKJV)

a. 22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

B. The stone that the builders rejected.

1. Matthew 21:42–44 (NKJV)

a. 42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’? 43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

C. He was an offence to the Jews.

1. 1 Peter 2:8 (NKJV)

a. 8 and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

D. He is an offence to millions today.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 (NKJV)

a. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19

For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

2. They love His kindness but hate His holiness.
3. They love His mercy but hate His justice.

III. But He is a living stone.

A. We are living stones connected to Jesus.

1. Maybe the better illustration is that of Jesus the vine and we the branches.
2. John 15:5–8 (NKJV)
 - a. 5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

B. What a blessing, what a privilege.

IV. He is the conquering stone.

A. Daniel 2:43–45 (NKJV)

1. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its

interpretation is sure.”

- B. Jesus is not someone that you can take or leave.
 - 1. If you take Him He will save you and keep you and hold you fast.
 - 2. If you leave Him He will be your judge.
 - 3. Your life will be useless and a failure.
 - 4. Remember Jesus said without Me you can do nothing.