

## Rejected by People but Chosen by God

1 Peter 2:4-10

Peter is still telling us our story and putting spiritual steel in our souls. Most everything up to this point (2:10) is preparatory. God is bracing us for the hostility and opposition we will inevitably face as His people. 1:1-2:10 gets us ready to receive the commands in 2:11 and following. We must understand and believe **what we are told in these early sections**, or we won't buy into **what we're about to be told**.

### 2:4-5

Christ is the living cornerstone. We form the walls of this spiritual, living "building." We are the walls, and each of us is a living stone. See Matthew 16:18 and Ephesians 2:11-22.

All who belong to Jesus get to "be a holy priesthood" and "offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ!" We're not talking animals here. See Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:17-18, and Hebrews 13:15-16.



### 2:6-8

"Are you tripping over Him **or** trusting in Him? There is no neutrality with this. Not choosing a side is not an option. Excusing ourselves from the matter is not possible."

The Gospel is good news for sinners who long for a Savior. But the Gospel "grows spikes" for sinners who reject it (refuse to trust in Jesus Christ). The One who wants to be your living cornerstone will eventually become the rock that crushes you if you continue to reject Him. See Matthew 21:33-44 and Acts 4:5-12.

On the day when it really matters (the day of judgment and vindication), we who trust in Him **will not** be put to shame. We will be insulted, mistreated, or worse right now, but not on the final day. (Jeff Purswell)

He was rejected, and so are we. He was chosen, and so are we!

### 2:9-10

**This** is who we are **now**. This is who we are corporately (as a **group**). This is our "we-identity," not our "i-identity." It's who we are now that God's mercy has entered our story. We are these things together. "This is our new, true identity, and it's our **primary** identity, not our **secondary** identity." Other things that we grab onto to identify ourselves in this world must not eclipse our new, true identity in Christ. We must not let the secondary become the primary.

As the Church, we resemble the people of Israel, but we do not replace them. We may wear some of the same honorific titles and have some of the same spiritual privileges, but we don't take their place.

We are His. We are God's. He essentially says to us, "You're mine." And our hearts should answer back, "Yes, we are. We're yours." "If we really know and believe all of this, we can fear nothing, and we can face anything." (Jeff Purswell)