

Message for January 14, 2018.

The Living Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:1-6 New Living Translation (NLT)

2 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but He was chosen by God for great honor.

⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scriptures say,

**"I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem,
chosen for great honor,
and anyone who trusts in Him
will never be disgraced."**

The Christian church is not a building, but a body of believers united in Christ. Its role is to worship God, nurture and edify and reach out to a suffering world with the saving message of the gospel.

As the church we have been called to make an eternal difference in our world.

The church has a variety of ministries like teaching the Word of God:

Isaiah 55:11 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹¹ It is the same with my word.

**I send it out, and it always produces fruit.
It will accomplish all I want it to,
and it will prosper everywhere I send it.**

As followers of Christ we are always praying for one another, and show acts of genuine hospitality and kindness.

In following Christ's example to love others, the church is to seek to make a real difference in the world while not neglecting to share the message of Christ.

Is it any wonder that the Apostle Paul stressed the importance of “Unity” in the church.

We are to live out our lives in mission to the least and the lost.

In other words, what we are to be “learning” is increased love toward others and increased faith for the task of serving others and growing closer to God in our own lives.

The Psalmist extends this invitation to all of us.

Psalm 34:8 Good News Translation (GNT)

⁸ Find out for yourself how good the LORD is.

Happy are those who find safety with him.

As people of faith we want to demonstrate the goodness of the Lord because of His goodness to each of us personally.

Listen God is for you, each one of you, He is not against you. He wants the very best for each of us... that never means that He winks at sin... but He is always working on our behalf.

As God has revealed Himself to us through Jesus Christ, He wants His church to reveal what He is like to the world... We're the Church.

Remember who you are and to whom you belong.

AMEN