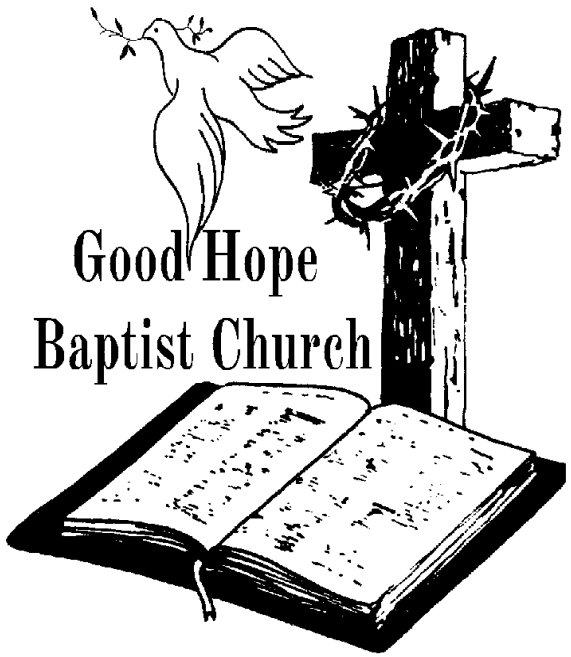
My Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:1-5



Living Together In The Love Of God

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FOCAL Read Responsively 1 Peter 2:1-5 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, **5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

ILLUSTRATE A city slicker went to Alaska wanting to be a pioneer. He asked an old miner what he needed to be able to do in order to survive in Alaska. The old man told him **"you need to be able to skin a bear, and be able to kiss an Eskimo woman on the lips"**. The city slicker went off and came back two days later. His right arm was in a sling, and bandages were wrapped all around his head and upper chest. He came back to the old miner and said, **"Well, I've done the first part. Where's that Eskimo woman you want me to skin?"**

It's easy to get distracted - to get off course of your goal.

I remember watching a soccer game once that some small children were playing. At one point a little 8 year old boy became disoriented. He was passed the ball but in the excitement of the moment the child started running in the opposite direction, not toward his team's goal but toward the other team's goal. His coach and his team mates kept shouting at him to turn around, but in his confusion he thought he was being cheered on. It was not

until he kicked the ball into his own team's goal did he realize he had made a terrible mistake. He made a point for the other team.

It is so easy for us to lose sight of the goal, not just in sports but in life itself. You cannot win when you lose sight of your goal. The Apostle Peter reminds us today that God's goal for us as His Church is that we be His Kingdom. We are:

1 Peter 2:5 ..... lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
This is God's goal for every Christian who makes up His Church. Look at the words. God wants us to be **lively stones**. Each one of us who are saved are components in God's **spiritual house, His Church.** We are **lively stones** because God is making us like Jesus, the **Living Stone, disallowed by men but chosen of God (verse 4)**. We are to be like Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Like Jesus, we are a **holy priesthood**. Every Christian is a priest before God, able to approach God and interact with God. Listen Beloved: if you are **born again by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever (1 Peter 1:23)** you are born into the Family of God. You are God's Children whether you are in Church or not. You are God's priests whether you are in Church or in the world. Just as the Children of Levi were the Old Testament priests whether they were in the Temple serving or not, you are God's priests whether you are in Church or not.

Believers have access to God where ever they are.

Believers represent God where ever they are. This is the nature of the Kingdom of God.

Steve McVey wrote in his book *52 Lies Heard In Church Every Sunday*:

"The idea that there's a difference between sacred and secular in the life of a Christian is not true. You live and move and exist in Jesus Christ ..... Our role as believers is to allow "Christ in us" to move into every sphere of our lives, bringing His influence to homes, families, businesses, governments, even Churches."

That's God's goal for every believer - not to just be "holy" in Church, but to live for Christ as a son of God no matter where I am.

1. As A Son of God I Must Put Away The Darkness

FOCAL **1 Peter 2:1** **Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,**

The Apostle says that – *if you are born again* then you will **"lay aside"** certain things.

Word Study The word translated **"lay aside"** is the Greek (αποτιθημι **pronounced** *ap-ot-eeth'-ay-mee*). This word can mean to **take off and lay down**.

Before the Pharisees stoned the Evangelist Stephen **(Acts**

7:58). They took off their clothes, and *laid them down* at Saul's feet. They took their good clothes off before they stoned Stephen, for they did not want to get spattered blood on what they were wearing. This word is used by the Apostle Paul when he wrote:

Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

A Child of God is to **throw to the side** anything that hinders his ability to serve the Lord. We throw these things to the side as unworthy.

As a Christian I must cast off dark, sinful things (a) because they **hinder my walk with God**, and (b) they **hamper my witness among men**.

The Apostle writes:

Hebrews 12:1-2 ... seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us,* and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...

There is a **great cloud of witnesses** watching us. What do they see? Do they see Jesus in us - or just people playing at Church? Do they see God's children, or people just like them playing "let's pretend". Look at the focal text:

FOCAL 1 Peter 2:1 .... laying aside all malice ....

Word Study The word **"malice" (κακια Pronounced** *kak-ee'-ah*) means **"badness, depravity, meanness, naughtiness"**. **Christians are born of love and born to love.** Meanness is not a part of our makeup. Cast it off!

ILLUSTRATE A little girl had been naughty, so her momma told her "go upstairs to your room – I'll be up in a minute so we can talk". When the momma got upstairs she found her child – not in her room – but in her mother's closet. She said, "Why are you in my closet?" The little girl said, **"I've spit on your clothes, I've spit on your shoes, I've spit on your floor, and I'm standing here waiting for more spit".**

Needless to say, that child got a paddling – and should have!Mean and malicious people hinder the work of Christ in this world. Their tongues poison the atmosphere of the Church.

God is not honored by malicious people. God's people are called to *unity, to love* one another.

The Apostle Paul chastised the Corinthian Church for **allowing unrestained sin in their midst**, but he cautioned them as they dealt with the sin to *not be mean*.

1 Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of

sincerity and truth.

God's people should never justify sin, but neither should they be mean when pointing it out. **A surgeon uses a scalpel and care in removing a tumor from a patient – he doesn't use a meat cleaver.** If you see a believer wandering from the Lord and from the Church *go to him or her*. Do not gossip, neither be mean. Not only is the believer to **lay aside meaness**, but we are told:

FOCAL 1 Peter 2:1 ... laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, ...

Word Study Guile (δολος **pronounced** *dol'-os*) means **"to be crafty or tricky. To be like a sneak thief"**. The word **hypocrisies** (υποκρισις **pronounced** *hoop-ok'-ree-sis*) means **"to play a part, to be an actor, to be of two faces"**. **Envy** of others leads to sneaking around and two faced behavior.

We don't need to be envious of one another. If you are born again by faith in Christ, know that God loves you. You have a place in the Body of Christ. The Scripture says:

1 Corinthians 12:18 ... God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

If you are born again by faith in Christ you are **part of His Body, part of His Church, and your gift is important**. Find that which God wants you to do - and DO IT.

Do not be distracted from your calling in Christ. The Lord called **Judas Iscariot** to be a disciple and an apostle along with the other eleven. Judas served alongside Jesus for three and a half years. He heard Jesus preach. He was used by Jesus. He slept with Jesus, and ate with Jesus, and was there - first hand - when Jesus did miraculous things. And yet Judas ended up dying a terrible death by his own hand after betraying his Lord. One of the big debates among theologians is whether Judas Iscariot was ever saved or not. Truthfully, we'll never really know until we get to Heaven and see if he's there or not. But one thing is certain: Judas Iscariot reminds us how we can all throw our lives away by focusing on the wrong thing.

If I am saved, then I am not to be consumed by envy for others. I am to **look unto Jesus, the Author and finisher of my faith** and live for Him and Him alone!

FOCAL 1 Peter 2:1 .... laying aside .... all evil speakings,

Word Study Put away the bad words from among you! The word **evil speakings** (καταλαλια **pronounced** *kat-al-al-ee'-ah*) is also translated **"back bitings"** in

2 Corinthians 12:20 For I fear, lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings,

whisperings, swellings, tumults:

Backbiting is **evil speaking**. God never justifies backbiting. Backbiting hurts the Church, and it hurts Christ. It does no one but Satan good! You are evil speaking when you backbite. Do not be an agent of Satan, but be a Child of God!

ILLUSTRATE I have in my library a very nice Bible, a very expensive gift given to me by a Church member and a fellow Pastor. On the inside cover are the words **"To David Buffaloe, our friend and Pastor"**. This was given to me May 25, 2004 by a man now with the Lord. Our friendship died sometime in 2007. I miss my friend. I missed him more in 2007. What poisoned our relationship? A bitter and gossiping tongue, a self righteous attitude, and a critical mindset. **Evil speaking** destroys friendships, wrecks marriages, and divides Churches. We are to cast this dark tongue far away from us if we belong to Jesus.

2. As A Son Of God I Must Drink Of His Word

FOCAL **1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.**

ILLUSTRATE A little boy was watching his daddy – a farmer – behead a chicken for that night's meal. He said, **"Look daddy, that chicken's dead and he don't know it".** There's a lot of people who are dead and don't know it. Our churches are filled with them! The sign or mark that you are alive *in Christ* is that you desire *Christ's Word*. The day I was saved, the first thing I did was cry - I repented before my Maker. The second thing I did was desire the Word of God.

The first thing the newborn baby does is cry, but the second thing the infant does is *eat*. It is a distinctive mark of the true Christian that he or she desires the Word of God.

The baby instinctively knows that it must feed. You can touch your finger to a baby's mouth and he will begin to suck on your finger. He must feed if he wants to grow, and God designs the baby to want to grow. In the same way God has designed the Christian to want to grow.

You cannot grow in your faith unless you feed on the **pure milk of the Word**. It is the Word of God that saved you, and it is the Word of God that sanctifies you. It is the Word of God that gave you life, and it is the Word of God that will empower you to live your life. Your faith in the preaching of the Word of God brought you from darkness and into light. Your continual feeding on His Word will keep you *walking in the light*. Jesus tells us:

John 15:3-4 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

The Word of God cleansed you and brought you to the

place where you could be born again.

Ephesians 5:25-27 .... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water BY THE WORD, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Faith in the Word of God saves the Christian. Faith in the Word of God grows the Christian.

If the newborn baby stops eating it will, in time, die. It must be fed. You must be fed. The Christian who will not feed on the Word of God by regularly reading it and studying it will, in time, be consumed of the world. The reason we have sickly and useless Christians in every age of every Church is because they will not seek God's Word. You must **long for the pure milk of the Word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation**. The Apostle told Timothy:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture *is* God breathed, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be mature in the faith, completely furnished to do all good works. **Authors Translation**

God's Word is the Breath of God! Inhale the breath of God and exhale His righteousness.

ILLUSTRATE **When you're first born into God's Kingdom by faith in Christ *nothing seems to fit.*** Up seems down, left seems right, nothing fits. You must grow! Children often dress up in their parents clothes. Look at little Sally, covered with momma's dress. It doesn't fit. It drags the floor. Her feet are consumed by momma's high heels. But one day Sally will grow up. As she eats and exercises she grows. Dear Christian, do not worry if it seems as if His clothes do not fit you. Keep putting on His things. Keep striving, and keep feeding on the **sincere milk of the Word of God**. You will grow. You will grow!

3. As A Son Of God, My Star Is Always Jesus

ILLUSTRATE When I was young and my children were young we used to play a game called **"Pick Up Sticks"**. This was a tube filled with different colored little sticks. The object of the game was to drop the sticks on the table and then – using one colored stick – pick up as many of your color sticks as you could *without disturbing* your opponents sticks. When the Pick Up Sticks were held together in a bundle they all pointed in the same direction. When they were dropped from the hand they all pointed in different directions.

When a Church is in the hand of God all of its members – though different – will be pointing in the same direction. The Church points toward Christ. He is the **Chief Cornerstone** and we are **His Lively Stones**.

FOCAL 1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious ..

Christ is the CORNERSTONE. You cannot build a secure wall without a solid cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:18-21 For through {Jesus} we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

No Church will fulfill its mission filled with people who will make themselves precious, chosen, cornerstones, or stars. The mark of the Pharisee, the self righteous, and the lost is that they will not believe nor follow Jesus. Our Lord told them:

John 10:26-28 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

The star of the Christian life is not the Christian - it is not me. It is JESUS. He is my Star, my Sun, and my Shield.

<u>The saved point to the Savior!</u>

When the **Samaritan woman at the well** accepted Jesus Christ as Savior she could not wait, but ran out and told her friends:

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

<u>The saved point to the Savior!</u>

When **her Samaritan friends** came and heard Jesus Christ speak, and believed on Him, they said:

John 4:42 Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

<u>The saved point to the Savior!</u>

When **Andrew the fisherman** met and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior he could not wait, but ran out and and told Peter:

John 1:41 ... We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

<u>The saved point to the Savior!</u>

Though **Martha**'s brother Lazarus died, she nonetheless said to Jesus:

John 11:27 Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

<u>The saved point to the Savior!</u>

The Apostle Paul said:

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord ...

Oh how precious Jesus is to His people! Just as **He is the Beloved Son, in Whom God is well pleased (Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5)**, we who believe in Him are infatuated with Him.

Oh the world will chase after Jesus while He is healing, or feeding them by turning water to wine or a few fish into a feast. But the Christian is infatuated with Christ. **He keeps on coming to Jesus**. Christ is THE STAR of Bethlehem, the Star of every believer's life - and we want to be like Him.

As Christ is a **Living Stone rejected by men** we who believe are **Living Stones**. We work together **as a spiritual house**, offering **spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God by Jesus Christ**.

The world doesn't need more Church buildings. The world needs more Christians who look like Christ. **Dr. Adrian Rogers** said before he died: **"The curse of [our age] is that we have many Churches filled with baptized pagans. We have a full Church of empty people. They have culture but not Calvary, ritual but not reality, form but not force, religion but not righteousness."**

God is building a Kingdom of **lively stones**. He is calling a people unto Himself. Those who belong to Jesus are blessed.

ILLUSTRATE A man put an advertisement in the lost and found section of his local newspaper. The ad read,

"Lost dog. Crippled in his right front paw, blind in his left eye. He has mange in his fur, and part of his tail is missing. Recently neutered, the dog answers to the name Lucky."

Why in the world would anyone name a dog in such a condition "Lucky"? Because the dog is Lucky. He is Lucky - Blessed - because someone loves him. May I tell you this: God loves us. The Bible says:

1 John 4:19 We love him, because He first loved us.

This is what the Christian knows. **We love Him, because He first loved us**. There was nothing lovable in me that caused God to love me. When I fell in love with my wife it was because I saw something in her that caused me to love her - and I love her still. In humans we bond and love because we see something in the other that attracts us. But there was nothing in us that warranted love from God.

We are sinners - and prone to sin even now. God is sinless. We are self serving - and prone to do that which exemplifies ourselves. God is selfless. Like the dog named "Lucky" we are beaten up by life - missing parts - and yet God wrote in His infinite Word that He loves us nonetheless.

FOCAL 1 Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Have you tasted of the Grace of God? Have you drunk from the well of Grace of the Living Water, the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, then you know what you must do. If not, then Christ calls to you.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

Good Hope
Baptist Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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1 Peter 2:5

1. As A Son of God I Must Put Away The Darkness

1 Peter 2:1;Acts 7:58; **Romans 13:12; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:1; 1 Corinthians 12:18; 2 Corinthians 12:20**

Word Study The word translated **"lay aside"** is the Greek (αποτιθημι **pronounced** *ap-ot-eeth'-ay-mee*).

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2. As A Son Of God I Must Drink Of His Word

1 Peter 2:2; John 15:3-4; Ephesians 5:25-27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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3. As A Son Of God, My Star Is Always Jesus

1 Peter 2:4; Ephesians 2:18-21; John 10:26-28; John 4:29; John 4:42; John 1:41; John 11:27; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5

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