

**Sermon:** God's Great Building Project: The Church  
**Series:** 1 Peter: Hardships, Holiness, and Hope

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:4-10  
**Date:** September 27, 2020

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?**

a) Go through the passage together and make a list of everything we learn about the church. How does it apply to us as a church? How does it apply to you as an individual?

b) Look especially at verse 9. What stands out to you? How does this verse reveal both our identity and our purpose in Christ?

**2) What does this passage teach us about God?**

a) "The church is God's plan A for the world and there is no plan B." What does it tell us about the nature of God that he would use his church to "proclaim his excellencies?"

b) Together find all the phrases in this passage that say how God relates to us. Look at your list and let it soak in to your heart. How does it encourage you?

**3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

a) Why does Jesus have to be a stumbling block BEFORE he can be a cornerstone? (Hint: think about the nature of our salvation – grace not works).

b) Is Christ alone your cornerstone? What things are competing with Jesus to be the foundation of your life – family, career, ministry, possessions, sexuality, \_\_\_? Why does everything else eventually let us down?

**APPLICATION**

a) Pastor Mark asked, "Are you committed to the church as much as God is?" How would you answer this question? What might a deeper love for the church look like for you?

**FIGHTER VERSES: 1 Peter 1:3-9.**

**PRAYER**

Praise God for the excellencies of his grace in the church.

Repent of ways that you have made lesser things your cornerstone.

Ask God to allow you to live as his holy and faithful priest.