

Today we'll see what we are set a part by God for: spiritual growth together in a spiritual house.

GOD IS GROWING HIS SPIRITUAL FAMILY

1 Peter 2:1-3, 1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- Get rid of the bitter fruit of unrepentance that slows growth.
- Crave the spiritual milk of God's Word that sustains our growth.

GOD IS BUILDING HIS SPIRITUAL HOUSE

1 Peter 2:4-7a, 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious...

- A plan: As you come to Him, the living Stone
- A piece: you also, like living stones
- A purpose: a holy priesthood offering spiritual...
- A person: a chosen and precious cornerstone
- A promise: who trusts in him will never be put to shame

JESUS IS EITHER A HOME'S ARCHITECT OR ITS WRECKING BALL

1 Peter 2:7b-8, But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

- The same Jesus that is a solid rock for the believer is a tripping hazard for others.
- Be careful about what you may allow to condemn your house to destruction.

JESUS DOESN'T DESIRE TO CRUSH ANYONE

1 Peter 2:9-10, 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- In Christ we have a: new community (*chosen people*), new access to God (*royal priesthood*), new citizenship (*holy nation*), and a new owner (*special possession*).
- If we want all that blessing to be true for others then we must: *declare the praises of him who called you...*