

THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITHFUL

1 PETER 2:1—17

CHAPTER 2

Growth in Holiness. * ¹ So strip away everything vicious, everything deceitful; pretenses, jealousies, and disparaging remarks of any kind. ² Be as eager for milk as newborn babies—pure milk of the spirit to make you grow unto salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁷

⁴ Come to him, * a living stone, rejected by men but approved, nonetheless, and precious in God's eyes. ⁵ You too are living stones, built as an edifice of spirit, into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For Scripture has it:

"See, I am laying a cornerstone in Zion, an approved stone, and precious. He who puts his faith in it shall not be shaken." ^u

⁷ The stone is of value for you who have faith. For those without faith, it is rather,

"A stone which the builders rejected that became a cornerstone." ^v

⁸ It is likewise "an obstacle and a stumbling stone." Those who stumble and fall are the disbelievers in God's word; it belongs to their destiny to do so. ^w

⁹ * You, however, are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he claims for his own to proclaim the glorious works" of the One who called you from darkness into his marvelous light. ^x
¹⁰ Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once there was no mercy for you, but now you have found mercy. ^y

Good Example. ¹¹ * Beloved, you are strangers and in exile; * hence I urge you not to indulge your carnal desires. By their nature they wage war on the soul. ^z
¹² Though the pagans may slander you as troublemakers, conduct yourselves blamelessly among them. By observing your good works they may give glory to God on the day of visitation.

For the Citizen. ¹³ Because of the Lord, be obedient to every human institution, * whether to the emperor as sovereign ^a ¹⁴ or to the governors he commissions for the punishment of criminals and the recognition of the upright. ¹⁵ Such obedience is the will of God. You must silence the ignorant talk of foolish men by your good behavior. ¹⁶ Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cloak for vice. * In a word, live as servants of God. ^b ¹⁷ You must esteem the person of every man. Foster love for the brothers, reverence for God, respect for the emperor. ^c