

God's Holy Nation

A Study of 1&2 Peter: "There's Hope in Unity"

1 Peter 2:1-12

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:10)

I. Christian Togetherness (Unity)

- a. We would think that those who walk in hope and holiness would be able to walk in harmony.
- b. From God's point of view there is only one Body, but what we see with human eyes is a Church divided and sometimes at war. (John 6:43; 2 Tim 2:14, 23-24; James 4:1-4)
- c. We are children born into the same family (1 Pet 1:22-23).
- d. If we try to build unity in the Church based our first birth we will fail, but if we build unity based on our new birth we will succeed. Every believer has the same Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:9)

II. God's Word Nourishes Christian Unity

- a. God's Word has life, gives life and nourishes life. We need to *grow up into salvation* (v. 2).
- b. Just like newborn babes we should have appetites for pure Word. (1 Cor 3:1-4; Heb 5:11-14).
 1. As we grow we discover that the Word is milk for babes and also meat for the mature.
- c. Sometimes children have no appetite because they have been eating the wrong things.
 1. Malice (wickedness), all deceit, hypocrisies, envy and slander *do not* feed the Body of Christ.
 2. A Christian that is growing in the Word, will be a peacemaker and not a troublemaker.
- d. If we no longer feed on the God's Word we will lose our appetite for it.

III. Called to be Unified Living Stones

- a. Jesus called Peter, the *rock* (Matt 16:18). Eph 2:20 identified Jesus as the chief cornerstone of the Church, that binds the building together.
- b. Peter described Jesus as a living stone because He was raised from the dead in victory.
 1. Jesus was not the Messiah that the "Jews" expected so they "stumbled" over Him.
- c. Believers are *living stones*. Each time someone trusts in Christ, another stone is cut from the pit of sin and "gracefully" placed in the building.
- d. Peter wrote this letter to different provinces, but he said they all belonged to one *spiritual house*.
- e. The unity of God's people transcends all local and individual fellowships. We belong to each other because we belong to Christ.

IV. Called to a Unified Purpose

- a. We are a *holy priesthood* and a *royal priesthood*, which corresponds to the heavenly priesthood of Christ. In the O.T., God's people *had* a priesthood (Levites).
 1. Today God's people *are* a priesthood, which means each believer has the privilege of coming into the presence of God. We serve God as co-heirs of His kingdom. (Romans 8:17)
 2. Christ is the only Mediator. We no longer have to go through a person on earth (priest/pastor).
- b. As we live out our shared priesthood, it should unite us. We are priest together.

V. Called to be a Unified Holy Nation

- a. *Chosen generation* speaks of the grace God. God chose you *in* and *for* the times in which you live.
- b. *Holy nation* means we have been set apart to belong exclusively to God.
 1. Our citizenship is heaven, so we obey heaven's laws and seek to please our Lord and Savior.
 2. Separation is not isolation, rather it is contact without contamination. (Wiersbe)

VI. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Christians can disagree without being disagreeable. When can Christians disagree on things?
- b. Unity does not eliminate diversity. All stones are not alike. God embraced your uniqueness.
- c. Unity in the Body of Christ is conformity/transformation, not uniformity. (Romans 8:29;12:2)