

Title: Under Construction

Text: *"You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 2:5)

Target: You Don't Live Different to Become God's People. You Live Different Because You Are God's People.

- I. **Remove what doesn't belong:** *"So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander."* (Vs. 1)
- A. **Deviousness:** *"malice"*
 - B. **Deception:** *"deceit"*
 - C. **Duplicity:** *"hypocrisy"*
 - D. **Discontent:** *"envy"*
 - E. **Defamation:** *"slander"*

Quote: You can't build what God wants while holding what God hates.

- II. **Replace what you consume:** *"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good"* (Vs. 2)
- A. **Spiritual Milk:** *"pure spiritual milk"*
 - B. **Spiritual Meat:** *"for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature,"* (Hebrews 5:13-14)

Quote: What you feed on is what you will be formed by.

- III. **Redefine who you are:** *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."* (Vs. 9)
- A. **Chosen in Purpose:** *"chosen Race"*
 - B. **Royal in Position:** *"royal priesthood"*
 - C. **Prized Possession:** *"a people for his own possession"*
 - D. **Called to Proclaim:** *"proclaim the excellencies of him"*

Quote: You are not becoming someone who God will one day like, you are becoming who He said you already are.

- IV. **Reveal what matters most:** *"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. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles..."* (Vs. 10-11)
- A. **Abstain from Fleshly Desires:** *"abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."* (Vs. 11)

B. Keep your Conduct Honorable: *“keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers,” (Vs. 12a)*

C. Let your Faith be Evident: *“they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.” (Vs 12)*

Quote: What matters most is not what you say you believe, it's what your life reveals.

Takeaway: You are not just being changed, you are being built into something that reveals God.

- What needs to go?
- What are you feeding on?
- Who are you becoming?
- What are people seeing?