

The Supremacy of Christ in a Post-Christian World

1 Peter 2:4-10

Introduction: The Post-Christian Supermarket

- (1) Cultural Relativism
 - ❑ Cultural relativism dominates moral attitudes
 - ❑ Cultural relativism dominates truth claims
- (2) Expressive Individualism
 - ❑ You be you
 - ❑ Be true to yourself
 - ❑ Be your biggest fan
 - ❑ Be exceptional
 - ❑ Follow your heart
 - ❑ Find yourself

(3) Jesus the Stone (vv 4-8)

- (a) Jesus is a “Living Stone” (vv 4-5)

As you come to him, *a living stone* rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 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.
- (b) Jesus is a “Cornerstone” (vv 6-7)

For it stands in Scripture [Isiah 28:16]: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, *a cornerstone* chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe [Psalm 118:22], “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”
- (c) Jesus is a “Stumbling Stone” (v 8)

And “*A stone of stumbling*, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

(4) The Stone and Cultural Relativism

- (a) **Focus on Jesus** (vv 4-7)
- (b) **Allow for Rejection** (v 8)

(5) The Stone and Expressive Individualism

- (a) **You are a Chosen Race** (v 9a)

→ Your new identity is: “You are chosen.”

You get your identity not from the choices you make, but from your chosenness—you are the object of God’s eternal electing purpose.

- (b) **You are a Pitied People** (v 10b)

→ Your identity is: “You are pitied.”

You get your identity not from your actions, but from being acted on—with grace and mercy.

- (c) **You are a Royal Priesthood** (v 9b)

→ Your identity is: “You are royal priests in the service of the King.”

You get your identity not from your job or your achievements, but from your “consecration in Christ to be both the associates of his kingdom, and partakers of his priesthood” (Calvin).

- (d) **You are God’s Possession** (v 9d)

→ Your identity is: “You are Christ’s.”

You belong to Jesus Christ.

- (e) **You are Holy Nation** (v 9c)

→ Your identity is: “You are holy.”

Set apart for him. Holiness unto the Lord

Conclusion: Exaltation → Proclamation (v 9)

That you may *proclaim* the *excellencies* of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.