

JESUS IS THE CORNERSTONE: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO ME?

1 Peter 2:4-8

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“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. For it stands in Scripture: “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, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”
(1 Peter 2:4–7, ESV)

The Symbol of the Cornerstone means:

1. **Jesus is my life’s foundation.**

“You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple.”
(1 Peter 2:4a, NLT)

- a. Application – Jesus, the cornerstone sets the direction of my life.
- b. What are the non-negotiables in my life?

“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.” (Luke 6:46–49, NLT)

2. **I am born again, beloved and belong to the LORD Jesus Christ.**

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“No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us.” (John 1:18, NLT)

*“God is the fountain, the ocean, the center of joy, and Jesus lay in the very bosom of the fountain of joy. Day in and day out, the Father immediately, fully, everlastingly let out this overpowering bliss and rapture and ecstasy and delight into the soul of Jesus. No one has ever experienced such glorious joy. As Jesus says in John 17:5, ‘Father, glorify me with the glory I had before the world began.’ He is chosen and precious to the Father. The Father treasures him.” *John Flavel**

Question – What did it cost God to lay that Cornerstone?

“At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” (Matthew 27:46, NLT)

“I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.” (John 17:23, NLT)

Application – When you believe in Jesus, the Father loves you just the way He loves His Son!

3. **Jesus has to become the love of my life.**

“Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.” (1 Peter 2:7, NIV)

Question – Do you know why people think you are fanatical when you become a passionate follower of Christ?

“If we have been “mad” it was for God’s glory; if we are perfectly sane it is for your benefit. At any rate there has been no selfish motive. The very spring of our actions is the love of Christ. We look at it like this: if one died for all men then, in a sense, they all died, and his purpose in dying for them is that their lives should now be no longer lived for themselves but for him who died and rose again for them.” (2 Corinthians 5:13-14, Phillips)

Being a member of Woodland Church is a vocation, a way of life. It means participation in an intricate web of hospitality, living at the intersection of human need and God's grace, inhabiting a community where men and women who don't fit are welcomed, where neglected children are noticed, where the stories of Jesus are told, and people who have no stories find that they do have stories, stories that are part of the Jesus story. Being a member of Woodland Church places us strategically yet unobtrusively at a heavily trafficked intersection between heaven and earth. *-Adapted from what is a pastor’s wife by Jan Peterson as told to her husband Eugene Peterson*

Application – We give sacrificially, share the Gospel, practice hospitality, we are unafraid, because we are totally in love with Jesus Christ!

Warning – *“To you who trust him, he’s a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, The stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone. For the untrusting it’s ... a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.” (1 Peter 2:7–8, Message)*