

Stand Firm in Who We Truly Are

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Based on the "We Stand Firm" Series
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01-18-2026

Opening Prayer

- Thank God for revealing our true identity in Christ as chosen, redeemed, and called into His light.
- Ask for open hearts to embrace who we truly are in Him and resist false identities the world offers.

Ice Breaker

If someone at a border crossing asked you, “Who are you?” and “Where are you going?”, how would you answer right now—and how does your faith shape those answers?

Key Scripture

1 Peter 2:9 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Sermon Summary

In Jesus Christ, the cornerstone, we discover the answers to life's biggest questions: Who am I? and Where am I going? As believers, we are living stones built into a spiritual house, a chosen people called out of darkness into God's light, with a secure identity that will never put us to shame. This true identity remakes us to reflect God's character and proclaim His praises, rather than building our lives on fleeting, cultural foundations that lead to collapse.

Discussion Point 1: Jesus Is the Cornerstone

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4-8 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

As you come to him, a living stone—rejected by people but chosen and honored by God—you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and honored cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame. So honor will come to you who believe; but for the unbelieving, The stone that the builders rejected—this one has become the cornerstone, and A stone to stumble over, and a rock to trip over. They stumble because they disobey the word; they were destined for this.

Point Summary: Jesus is the living stone and chosen cornerstone—rejected by people but precious to God. Those who believe in Him are secure and will never be put to shame, while those who reject Him stumble. Our lives must be built on Him as the firm foundation if we want to stand firm.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does viewing Jesus as the cornerstone change the way you think about your own life's foundation?
2. In what ways have you seen people (or even yourself at times) stumble when building identity on things other than Christ?

Discussion Point 2: Our True Identity in Christ

Scripture: **1 Peter 2:5, 9-10 (CSB)** – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

...you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ...But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Point Summary: We are living stones being built together into God's spiritual house, a holy priesthood offering sacrifices to Him. We are a chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, and God's treasured possession—called from darkness to light and transformed from outsiders to His people through mercy. This is who we truly are.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which part of this identity description (chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's possession) resonates most with you right now, and why?
2. How does remembering “once you were not a people...but now you are God's people” encourage you when you feel like an exile in today's culture?

Discussion Point 3: Proclaiming His Praises and Standing Firm

Scripture: **1 Peter 2:9 (CSB)** (re-read if needed) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Point Summary: Our identity isn't just for personal security—it has a purpose: to proclaim God's praises and make Him known. In a culture confused about identity and direction, we stand firm by living out our true nature in Christ, demonstrating His character and pointing others to the hope we have.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it look like practically in your daily life to “proclaim the praises” of God who called you out of darkness?
2. How can embracing our true identity help us avoid the “Jenga-like” collapse that comes from building on temporary things like achievements, politics, or other cultural markers?

Wrap-Up

Jesus as the cornerstone gives us a rock-solid answer to who we are (chosen, royal, holy, God’s possession) and where we’re going (eternity with Him in His marvelous light). When we stand firm in this true identity, we avoid shame, live with purpose, and proclaim His greatness—no matter how tough the cultural exile feels.

Challenge

This week, reflect daily on your true identity using the “bookmark” idea from the sermon: remind yourself, “I am God’s chosen, royal priesthood, holy possession—called into His light.” Take one specific step to proclaim His praises, perhaps by sharing encouragement with someone or living out Christ’s character noticeably at work/home. If our church has any current initiatives like a prayer focus or outreach emphasis, tie this identity into participating actively.

Closing Prayer

- Praise God for calling us out of darkness and giving us a new, secure identity in Christ.
- Pray for strength to stand firm in who we truly are, resisting false identities, and for courage to proclaim His praises this week.
- Ask God to use our group to encourage one another in living out this truth.