

Corner Stone
Acts 7:55-60; I Peter 2:2-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

I want you to hear those words again, commit them to memory. This portion of the passage from the first of Peter's Letters, begins with the transition word – "but". BUT! All that was said before does not pertain to you. This word "but" paves the way for a new thought – for a new way of seeing things.

The One that was set as the corner stone, the One that the Builders rejected, has been a stumbling block for those who do not believe, BUT...

They stumble because they disobey the Word...BUT...

He is the stone that makes them fall... BUT...

They do not view this stone as precious....BUT...

BUT YOU believe in this corner stone. But YOU are a chosen people, BUT YOU are a royal priesthood, But YOU are a Holy nation, BUT You are God's own people. BUT you proclaim his mighty acts, sharing with other people how he has changed your life.

Christ is the solid foundation, the cornerstone upon which we, the building blocks for the household of God are built. To be built on Christ means to believe in him. To be built on Christ means that we trust fully in what God has done and is doing through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. If we believe in Jesus, then we can stop saying "no way!" and live into the reality of Jesus the Way, until everyone God made and loves can tell the story of God's people as their own.

We, you and I, are the blocks upon which other new believers stand. Christ is the sure foundation; we are the building blocks, upon which others stand. Jesus is the living stone that provides the life for each of us, as we, in turn pass it on.

Yesterday right here, right outside on that front lawn and in the fellowship hall, we saw the reality of Jesus the Way, as we shared the love of Christ with people from this community. Children, and adults alike, laughing and having fun. Yesterday was not about money. Yesterday was not about have or have-nots, about where we were born or about where we lived. Yesterday for three short hours we were about loving our neighbors. And our neighbors were here learning if we were really blocks built on the cornerstone of Jesus Christ.

This passage of scripture, when written, served an important pastoral need. That need continues in every Christian generation, for the church constantly needs to be reminded that God created us to be a single household, taking our identity from Jesus Christ and being set apart from the world.

At Community Fun Day you, offered over one hundred of our neighbors a look at a different way of life. A time when families came together – no matter what those families looked like – and had fun, received grace, freely given, smiles from folks who once were strangers, and love in the name of Jesus Christ. And as one little girl shared with Barb, "Today is the best day of my life."

Last week the choir sang an anthem, *Upon this Rock*. The words have echoed in my head all week. Upon this rock, I'll build my church, upon this rock I'll build my kingdom here, upon this rock.

This morning, it is my prayer that each of you is committed to being spiritual building blocks upon the firm foundation of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.