

OUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST

1 Peter 2:1–12

Key Verse: 2:5

1. To whom did Peter write, and who were these people (1:1)? What did it mean to be “elect exiles of the Dispersion” (1:1; see also 1:17; 2:11)? How did God give them their new identity in Christ (1:3–4,23)? How is this different from any other human identity?
2. How does Peter urge them (2:1–3)? What is “the pure spiritual milk” (1:23b), how can we have it (2:1), and why should we all “long for” it (2:2; 1:22)?
3. What does Peter say about Jesus (4)? What does it mean that he is “a living stone”? How does it summarize Peter’s gospel message (Acts 2:23–24; 4:10–12)? What does it mean to see Jesus as “chosen and precious” (2:4,6) and to “come to him” (4a)?
4. Read verses 4–5. When we all come to Jesus, what does Peter say happens? What does he mean that we are “living stones...being built up as a spiritual house”? What does this add to our understanding of our new identity? What “spiritual sacrifices” should we be making (5b,9b; Heb.13:15–16)?
5. What happens to those who do not believe (7–8)? In contrast, what does it mean to be “a chosen race” and “a people for his own possession” (9; Deut.7:6–8)? How is this God’s grace to us, and why do we need reminding of it (10)?
6. Note how Peter repeats the word “priesthood” (5,9). What is the main work of a priest? Why does Peter tell all these believers that “you are...a priesthood” (9)? Why “royal”? How do sinners become “holy” priests (1:2,15–16,18–19,22)?
7. What else does Peter tell believers to do, and why is this so important (2:11–12)?