

The Church is Alive Response Guide

1 Peter 2:4-10

Bethany Assembly of God

July 5, 2020

- What comes to mind when someone says, “church”? What images or emotions do you associate with it?
- Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.
- What images did Peter use to describe the Church?
- Do you think participation in a church is optional for Christians? Do you think Peter would say so?

Big Idea: You should embrace your place in God’s Church.

1. We house God’s presence.

- The first image that Peter uses to describe the Church is a Temple. Why do you think this is an appropriate image for a church?
- Maybe you’ve heard that Christians are temples of the Holy Spirit (see 1Corinthians 6:19), but did you know that the church is as well?

The church is not a building that houses people, but people who house God.

- Maybe you’ve thought a little about what it means for God to live in you, but what would it mean for God to live in a church, not a building, but a group of people serving Him together?
- What is the foundation or cornerstone of this living building?
- What kind of mental shift do you need to start thinking of the church not as a place, but as a people, and not as an event, but as a house for God’s presence?
- When we gather to worship and hear God’s word, how can you come with faithful expectation that God is with us and will speak to us?

2. We stand apart from all other kingdoms.

- If the world rejected Jesus, the cornerstone, what do you think it’s response will be to His followers?

- We've talked about the word "holy" in the past several weeks. What does holy mean? How can it apply to a nation or Kingdom?
- Since the Church is a "holy nation," but not one defined by borders, language, or common customs, what makes us a nation and what sets us apart from other nations?

3. We stand together as a chosen race.

- This can sound pretty bad under our current cultural climate, but what is it that defines this "chosen race"?
- What is the underlying assumption of the United States that is supposed to guarantee rights, liberty, and equality to all?
- If there is no recognition that equality is God-given, do you think equality can continue?
- Peter says that the Church is a chosen race based on what common factor? (Hint: It has to do with your birth, but not your first one.)
- How can we stand together as a chosen race within our church?

4. We mediate God's presence.

- The final image Peter leaves us is that the Church is a "Kingdom of Priests."
- Have you ever heard of the "Priesthood of All Believers"? What do you think it means?
- What is the function of priests?

An intercessor means one who is in such vital contact with God and with his fellow men that he is like a live wire closing the gap between the saving power of God and the sinful men who have been cut off from that power. An intercessor is the contacting link between the source of power (the life of the Lord Jesus Christ) and the objects needing that power and life.

-Hannah Hurnard

- What are the two things or people that we go between as priests?
- What does being a member of a Kingdom of Priests mean for you?
- How can you think of yourself as an intercessor?

- How should you keep a firm hold of the presence of God and at the same time, keep a firm hold of people in this world so that they can experience God's presence through your actions and words?

Conclusion

- What has the Holy Spirit spoken to you through this passage?
- How is He calling you to conform your life to Jesus?
- How can you better embrace your place in God's Church?