

Church People – Love One Another
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1 Peter 2:1-25
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

The invitation from God is to discover what it means to be “church people” in our exile, for such a time as this.

*How did you notice in some of the Sunday School stories that church people were participating and contributing in the place they had been carried into exile?

*What part does community, relationship and the ‘people of God’ play in the ability to be successful in exile?

Following Jesus requires us to participate in faith that is by nature and from the beginning - communal

How we love one another says the most about what we actually believe.

Read and discuss 1 Peter 2:1-12 (NIV)

2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says:

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”*

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

*“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,” 8 and,
“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”*

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

*What do these verses say about the churches’ communal purpose?

* Do Peter’s words describe you? Are they a fair characterization of how the world views us collectively as Church People?

*How would you evaluate your love of other church people? Where is a place you could grow?

The God 'who is love' shapes us into people that love

Receiving love from God and from one another allows us to give it freely to those around us

*How is God's love shaping you into a person who loves lately?

*Where are you struggling to love or to receive love?

*In what ways can we practically prioritize loving one another and ridding ourselves of attitudes and actions that destroy relationship?

The only thing to ever change the world is Christlike people

Christian ideas, policies and laws have done little to affect change.

*Do you agree that Christlike people change the world more than policies or laws?

*What is God's invitation to you this morning?

*What is He asking you to become or behold? To practice as church people?