IMAGES OF OUR IDENTITY

1 Peter 2:4-10 "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." (NIV)

1. Christians are LIVING STONES.

1 Peter 2:4-6 *"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."*

Isaiah 28:16 *"So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic." (NIV)*

Isaiah 28:16 "… the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic."

Matthew 21:42 *"Jesus said to them, "Have you never read the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.'" (NIV)*

Acts 4:10-12 *"10 … then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised*

from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 ***Jesus is*** *'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (NIV)*

1 Peter 2:7-8 "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." (NIV)

Psalm 118:22-23 "22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; 23 the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." (NIV)

Isaiah 8:13-14 "13 The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, He is the one you are to fear, He is the one you are to dread. 14 He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah He will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem He will be a trap and a snare." (NIV)

1 Peter 2:5 "… **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."

2. Christians are a SPIRITUAL BUILDING.

1 Peter 2:5 *"…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." (NIV)*

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 "18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do you now know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." (NIV)

1 Peter 2:9-10 "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." (NIV)

Exodus 19:5-6 "5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." (NIV)

3. Christians are a CHOSEN PEOPLE.

1 Peter 2:9 *"You are a chosen people …".*

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession." (NIV)

4. Christians are a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD.

1 Peter 2:9 *"You are … a royal priesthood …".*

5. Christians are a HOLY NATION.

1 Peter 2:9 "You are … a holy nation …" (NIV)

6. Christians are a SPECIAL POSSESSION OF GOD.

1 Peter 2:9 "… a special possession …"

BOTTOM LINE

1 Peter 2:9-10 "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." (NIV)