

Message

Title: What Is Your Life Really Built On?

Speaker: Pastor Dom O'Connell

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*“You're not the whole building —
you're a load-bearing stone in
something far bigger than you.”*

Introduction

This week, take one deliberate step towards building community — invite someone in, show up for someone, or bear a weight that isn't your own.

Have you ever felt exhausted from trying to hold your whole life up on your own?

Culture tells us to follow our hearts, trust our gut and "do you" — but how's that working out? In this message from 1 Peter 2, Pastor Dom O'Connell reminds us that Peter's letter was written to a people, not a person. God isn't building a collection of isolated individuals; He is building a spiritual household — an oikos, a dynasty — out of living stones, with Jesus as the cornerstone that every life is measured from.

We explore what it means to be a load-bearing part of something bigger, why you can't be a priest to yourself, and why the cornerstone matters more than the paint colour. Whether we're in a school hall or a building of our own, we are no less the church. The building may one day be finished — but we are not. Honest, practical and deeply hopeful, this message calls us to reject individualism and be actively built together as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation sent out among the nations to declare His praise.

Scripture



1 Peter 1:1 — Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen ones who are living as foreigners in the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

1 Peter 2:4-5 — coming to him, a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God, precious.

You also, as living stones, are built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:6-8 — Because it is contained in Scripture,

“Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, chosen, and precious:

He who believes in him will not be disappointed.”

For you who believe therefore is the honor, but for those who are disobedient,

“The stone which the builders rejected,
has become the chief cornerstone,”

and,

“a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

For they stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

1 Peter 2:9 — But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

1 Peter 2:11-12 — Beloved, I beg you as foreigners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

having good behavior among the nations, so in that of which they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Isaiah 28:16 — Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh, “Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone of a sure foundation. He who believes shall not act hastily.

Psalms 118:22 — The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

Isaiah 8:14 — He will be a sanctuary, but for both houses of Israel, he will be a trap and a snare for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Don't Miss This

- You matter enormously — but you are not the focal point: God knows your name, chose you and died for you. And yet Peter says you're a stone in a wall, not the whole building.



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Know God · Find Freedom · Discover Purpose · Make A Difference

The culture insists you are self-made, self-defined and self-sufficient, which leaves you carrying every load alone with nothing underneath when one part fails. Being part of something bigger isn't a demotion; it's where your purpose is finally fulfilled.

- You are being built — you're not the builder: The verb in 1 Peter 2:5 is passive: we are being built into a spiritual house. Building yourself is exhausting and ultimately pointless, but being built continues even when you can't hold yourself up. And it's happening to all of us together — an unfinished, ongoing work. The new building may one day be 'finished'; we are not.
- Everything in your life is measured from a cornerstone: The question isn't whether you have one — we all do — it's what it is. The culture says you're your own reference point: follow your heart, trust your gut. But feelings shift with circumstances, and a cornerstone set wrong makes every course of bricks that follows wrong too. Christ is the tested stone, rejected by the builders, chosen by God, and the one fixed point every life should be measured against.

Let's Chat

1. Where have you noticed culture's 'you do you' message shaping how you think about yourself — and honestly, how is that working out?
2. Peter says you're a load-bearing stone, not the whole building. What weight are you currently trying to carry alone that was never meant to be yours?
3. A priest can't be a priest to themselves. Who are you actively praying for, interceding for and standing in the gap for right now?
4. What is genuinely functioning as the cornerstone of your life at the moment — the thing you measure every decision from? Is it Christ, or something else?
5. Pastor Dom admitted he doesn't have all the answers on building community. What is one practical thing this group could do in the next month to build real community in our church?

