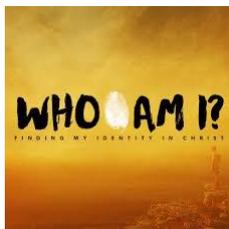


## Confident in Identity *Exploring the theme*



Are we people-pleasers?

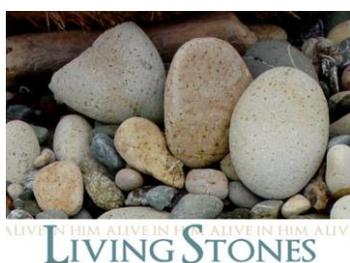
Have we ever felt different from others?

-at home? -at school? -at work?  
-in appearance? -in relationships?

Do we feel pressure to conform?

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-control.*  
(2 Timothy 1: 7)

## Confident in Identity 1 Peter 2: 4-10



*The Living Stone and a Chosen People*

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup>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.

How does our identity grow when we come to Jesus?

*“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7: 37-38)*

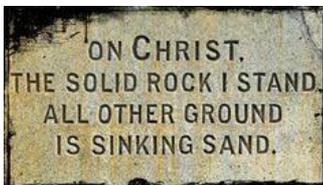
How does it feel to be part of a branch of the living body of Christ?

*From him (Christ the head), the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4: 15-16)*

## Confident in Identity

1 Peter 2: 4-10

*“Jesus, be the centre,  
Be my source, be my light,  
Be my hope, be my song,  
Be my path, be my guide,  
Jesus.” (S of F 1377)*

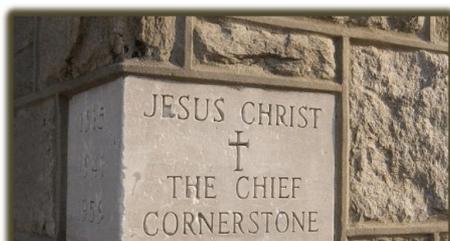


<sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> 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,”

<sup>8</sup> 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.



*What is the significance of the cornerstone in a building?*

*How does putting our trust in Jesus figure in God’s plan for our lives?*

*Why is the message of Jesus a stumbling block to many people?*

## Confident in Identity

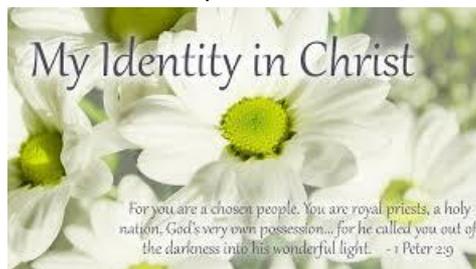
1 Peter 2: 4-10



*What does it mean to us to have been called by God as individuals and built together as His people?*

*How can we declare God’s praises in Canterbury at this time both gathered when we meet together and scattered on our frontlines?*

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.



## Confident in Identity *Living it out*



What contribution can we make as Christians in a time of coronavirus with our family and friends or in our workplace and neighbourhood?

Three things will last forever – faith, hope and love – and the greatest of these is love.  
(1 Corinthians 13: 13)

Do we have the confidence in our faith to press on through difficult circumstances with the full armour of God? (Ephesians 6: 14-17) →

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses ... For when I am weak, then I am strong. (1 Cor 12: 9-10)

