

Continuing our topical series...

God's View of Our Everyday World



March 22 The People of God and Politics in an Age of Fear & Anger

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1 Peter 2:4-12 (NLT)

⁴ You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶ As the Scriptures say,

“I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem,
chosen for great honor,
and anyone who trusts in him
will never be disgraced.”

⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.”

⁸ And, “He is the stone that makes people stumble,
the rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they do not obey God’s word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.

⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ “Once you had no identity as a people;
now you are God’s people.
Once you received no mercy;
now you have received God’s mercy.”

¹¹ Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think the political power of the church in Canada today is large or small? How did you come to your conclusion? Would you say your conclusion represents a good or bad situation? Why?
2. Some Christians are suspicious when the church seems to just focus on limited issues, e.g., being prolife or protecting marriage that is based solely on the union of a man and a woman. What do you think about this?
3. How does the imagery of priesthood and temple (“built” on the mountain of Jesus’ sacrifice) help you to understand the proper political posture and influence of the church?
4. In this present COVID-19 season, how could the “exiles” of ESC seek the welfare of the city (see Jer. 29:4-7).