

As Living Stones

January 31, 2021

1 Peter 2:1-3, *“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”*

Malice: a mean-spirited temper or mood, a vicious attitude, ill-will towards another

Deceit: taking advantage of others through underhanded methods, cunning

Hypocrisy: to create a public impression that is at odds with one’s real purposes or motives, to be misled by smooth talkers

Envy: to be jealous of another, to begrudge someone, to dislike and be resentful of a person

Slander: the act of speaking ill of another, defamation

1 Peter 2:4-6, *“And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”*

Matthew 5:11-12, *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

James 4:2; 4, *“You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. Friendship with the world is hostility toward God. Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*

1 Peter 2:7-8, *“This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone,” ⁸ and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.”*

1 Peter 2:9-10, *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*