

Cancelled: A Road Map For Living in Exile
1 Peter 2:4-10
Know Who You Are

Introduction: In comparison to most of the nations around the world, the United States is still very much a young nation, yet, even in our relatively short history we still have every reason to be proud of our country! A nation of immigrants from all over the world who rapidly formed the most prosperous and powerful nation in world history. A nation driven by a core ethos that, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” In our 246 years as a nation, we have gone through fire and ice to live by those truths. As our society faced the injustice of slavery, all that led to the women’s suffrage movement, Jim Crow laws, child labor abuses and so many other testimonies of our depraved humanity, we fought and found a way forward.

Our economy fuels the world. Our military protects the world. Our innovation drives the world. Our education informs the world. Our sports and entertainment inspire the world. Our benevolence cares for the world at a level that has never been seen. In just the last 100 years we rescued the world from tyrannical leaders like Hitler, stonewalled the expansion of oppressive systems like communism and repelled the wave of horror in Islamic terrorism.

We are a nation of flawed people and thus we are a nation who has as at least as many flaws as we have people, but there is nonetheless a pronounced and clearly seen reason people from all over the world want to come here. We have 246 years of pressing forward and, despite the current political climate, there is no reason to think that won’t continue. In our history, even when we go backwards, we somehow find a way to gather ourselves and go forward again.

Therefore, images like the rows of crosses at Arlington National Cemetery plant seeds within us that cause our hearts to soar when we see our nations flag unfurled and our national anthem played! For 246 years Americans have poured out sweat, blood and tears to form a more perfect union than the one they inherited. Its why, in the words of Lee Greenwood, so many of us are “proud to be an American.”

But even to those who could care less about the United States, everyone loves the experience of being able to have pride in something. Everyone is searching for something they can attach themselves to that gives them value and meaning, something that they have as a foundation that sets them apart and assures them that their life matters. It is not a sign of weakness but a sign of being human. It’s not even a sign of being sinful but rather God made us to need it. The problem is we find it in things that are just as flawed as we are and therefore, they never fully satisfy us. We take pride in what is corruptible then find ourselves in a conundrum when we realize it is!

Now, when Peter wrote this letter to these five churches in Asia Minor, he was writing to people who were losing all the things they stood on to find and experience and value. The

Jews in these churches had been kicked out of their communities because they professed that Jesus was the Messiah. They could no longer gather in the synagogues and participate in the culture that they were so proud of. The cry of the Jewish people had always been,

7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. (Psalm 95:7)

But now, they were being excommunicated for believing in the one they had spent centuries praying for!

In addition, these churches were also filled with gentiles who were now being ostracized from their pagan communities. They were no longer participating in some of the pagan religious practices that bound their communities together. Most notably they no longer participated in the Roman Cult that united the entire Roman Empire and guaranteed favor from Rome.

Each passing day, both Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus were being pushed further and further away from society and viewed with more and more skepticism, cynicism, and even fear and hatred.

Peter well understood this situation. He lived it every day of his life! He well understood the struggle of trying to find purpose and value. Peter himself was a former proud Jewish zealot who was now banned from Jewish life and culture! He knew very well what it was like to no longer be valued and loved! He knew what it was like to feel homeless and unwanted! He knew what it was like to try and fit in with people who no longer wanted you to fit in! He knew what is like to need somebody to tell him he belonged and that he had a purpose ("Jesus said, 'feed my sheep'" (John 21:17)).

So, there is no doubt in my mind that when Peter wrote these words his heart was filled with a holy pride that likely caused tears of praise and gratitude to stream from his eyes,

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. "They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do." 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:4-10)

There is just a TON of flat-out awesomeness in those verses. So let me mine it out for you in a way that you can organize it and remember it.

Proposition: 1 Peter 2:4-10 highlights three massively substantial facts about your identity in Christ.

The 1st substantial fact about your identity in Christ is that ...

- (1) You are accepted. God picked you because He wants you in His family! (2:4, 9-10a)**
 - A. 4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, (2:4)**
 - B. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; (2:9-10a)**
 - C. “2:10 but now are the people of God** Peter appeals to the prophet Hosea to remind Christians that their new status as the people of God depends solely on His mercy and divine election (Hos 1:9–10; 2:23; compare Rom 9:25–26).”¹
 - D. At the heart of the reality of life for these believers was that they were no longer accepted in the society they loved! And listen, I can’t make this point enough. It’s not as if they didn’t love being a part of the life and culture of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia – they did! The problem was they were no longer accepted! They were being treated as aliens and strangers by their own family members, friends and communities; and as such they were being rejected by the very people and society they had grown up in and loved.**
 - E. However, the contrast in their context is unmistakable. Peter says, on one hand, it is very true that you have been rejected by the people of this world, but on the other hand, you have been intentionally chosen by God to be in His family because He wants you and values you – you are precious!**
 - F. The world doesn’t care about you. The world could do without you. But God sees you as precious! God sees you as the most important possession He has and wouldn’t dream of setting you aside or disregarding you! Think about that, minus hoarders, you don’t intentionally buy things, especially highly expensive things, that you really don’t want, that is that you don’t really want to own, put on display or use! However, when God sent His eternal Son to die for us, He paid the highest price possible for us to BE HIS! There is no way we could be any more wanted than that!!!**

¹ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (1 Pe 2:10). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

- G.** In the family of God, you are not a distant cousin nobody has ever met, you are His chosen children! All who have repented and believed in Jesus are proudly proclaimed by God to be His family!
- H.** We are God's people, not out of some cosmic obligation, but by His plan, intentions and heart felt desire!
- I.** We are not God's people to his shame, but to His glory! He didn't choose you because He had to, but rather because He wanted to! He sees you as precious! We are rejected by man's society, yet CHOSEN to be a part of God's family which necessarily equally includes ALL who are in the church!
- J.** So the next time you want to put on a show to try and get people to accept you; the next time you find yourself compromising your values to fit in; the next time you realize your pouring emotional energy into getting people to value your friendship; stop and ask yourself how those people are ever going to love you, cherish you, and affirm you more than the creator of the Universe. Ask yourself why you think you will finally feel complete if you can just convince people to love you that don't. Ask yourself why you devalue the love and acceptance by the one who knows all your flaws and failures; all your weakness and scars; the one who knows how much you will fail to love and follow Him, fail to trust and obey Him; yet the one who still chooses you anyway, and will never stop loving you or affirming you as HIS forever!
- K.** "Once again Peter relies on Old Testament imagery. He alludes to the prophecy of Hosea where the Lord addresses the prophet when Gomer gave birth to her second son: "Call him Lo-Ammi [not my people], for you are not my people, and I am not your God" (1:9; and see 2:23). The second part of verse 10 also is an allusion to Hosea's prophecy. Gomer gave birth to a daughter and the Lord tells Hosea, "Call her Lo-Ruhamah [no mercy; or, not loved], for I will no longer show love [mercy] to the house of Israel" (1:6). "Once you were not a people [useful to God], but now you are the people of God." Here is an obvious reference to the past of these recipients. They were Gentiles and Jews who through the preaching of the Word of God had been converted (1:12). God saved them through the redemptive work of his Son and now these same persons are part of the body of believers known as "the people of God." They are God's special people, whom Peter designates "a people belonging to God" (v. 9). "Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." The Greek wording indicates that the recipients had lived without God for a long time, during which they had tried but failed to obtain mercy for themselves. Peter contrasts the past of these people with their present: "now you have received mercy." That is, they have received remission of sin and rejoice in the love and the grace of God. The prophet Hosea contrasts the unfaithfulness of his contemporaries in ancient Israel with the electing love of their covenant God (Hos. 1:1-2:23). In the New Testament, Paul applies the prophecy of Hosea to the Gentiles (Rom. 9:25-26). Moreover, he

regarded as Gentiles the Jewish people who had broken God's covenant. Yet God takes Gentiles and converted Jews into a covenant relationship with himself. Peter affirms this same truth when he addresses both Jewish and Gentile Christians in his epistle: "You are ... a people belonging to God."²

The 2nd substantial fact about your identity in Christ is that ...

(2) You are **significant**. God has given you eternal value! (2:4-5a, 6-8, 9-10)

Note: We just went forward through the passage, so let's go back over it in reverse this time. There's a lot on this subject in these verses but **I want to focus on four proofs that all in the church are eternally valuable and as such are significant!**

The 1st proof that all in the church are eternally valuable and as such are significant is that ...

A. The Church possesses what no one else in the world has – His **mercy!** (2:10b)

1. **once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (2:10b)**
2. I shared this with you last week, but it bears repeating. Listen carefully as I read it slowly,
3. **4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (the goodness and loving kindness manifested in the person, ministry and work of Christ on the cross!) 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)**
4. We who reject God have been graciously saved by Him! That's mercy! God knows that even after we give our lives to Him, we will still miserably fail Him; yet He decided to have mercy on us nonetheless, and as such, completely and totally saves us from the curse of sin. He who knows how unimpressive and incapable we are, adopted us into His household as His blessed and favored kids forever! His GENEROSITY towards us who deserve nothing is truly amazing!

² Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). *Exposition of the Epistles of Peter and the Epistle of Jude* (Vol. 16, pp. 93–94). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

5. But understand, nowhere in the Bible is it suggested that God's mercy is poured out on all. God doesn't promise that everybody is going to heaven. His mercy is not cheap, it is not spread thin, and it is not wasted. He has poured it out fully on all who repent and believe in Him and as such, He has granted us such an exclusive and important gift in His mercy that we really shouldn't need anything else to tell us just how significant we are; but nonetheless, there's more!

The 2nd proof that all in the church are eternally valuable and as such are significant is that ...

B. The Church is eternally better than any other nation on earth! (2:9)

1. **9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, (2:9)**
2. Elsewhere the Bible says,
3. **“He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him” (Colossians 1:22)**
4. I talked about this the other week. But to be holy doesn't just mean separate, but it means to be so gloriously separate and different that praise and honor has to be offered! This is why the Bible says that God alone is intrinsically of Himself Holy!
5. But here, Peter tells these rejected people that Christ has not only made them holy as individuals, but also, the family that they have been brought into; this nation that is made up of people from every human nation and ethnic group under the sun, has been of itself made by Christ, and to His glory, to be intrinsically worthy of praise! What Christ has brought us into is better than any nation on earth! His church has more power, more authority, more freedom, more love and more life than any other nation. There is not one characteristic of any nation on earth, including the United States, that is anything but eternally less than what we are as The Church of the Living Christ!
6. I'm not saying that in some arrogant way because we didn't have anything to do with it! I can't claim any credit for who God has made us to be. But nonetheless it is who God made us to be! You are significant!
7. This leads to ...

The 3rd proof that all in the church are eternally valuable and as such are significant is that ...

C. The Church will be honored for all eternity. (2:6-8)

1. **6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." 7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. "They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do." (2:6-8)**
2. There is a ton in here, so let me just point out what I think is most significant.
3. First of all, did you notice the similarities we share with Christ?
 - a. Yes, we have been rejected by society, but we are in good company! Christ was rejected as well. For the Jewish believers this was particularly significant. When Peter writes in verse 7, "**The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,**" he is referencing Psalm 118:22. The Jewish leaders rejected Christ in the same way a stone mason would reject a stone he deemed unworthy of being used in a building he's constructing. Society has done the same thing with us. However, this stone that the Jewish leaders rejected is THE chosen stone by God to be the most important and precious to Him, and as such the most featured stone in the entire building!
 - b. On that, just in case you don't think it's a big deal that God chose you and that you are precious to Him, just know that God speaks of Jesus in verse 6 the same way He speaks of us in verse 4 – chosen and precious! God has picked us, the very stones society has deemed as unworthy, and He has chosen us as those who are as precious to Him as His SON! That's huge!
4. Another way in which we are honored shows up in verse 6.
 - a. **6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."**
 - b. Peter is referencing Isaiah 28:16 here.
 - c. This doesn't mean if we give our life to Christ that we will not be shamed by the people of this world. What it means is that it's not going to end that way! The last word will not be shame, but praise and honor!

- d. Listen to what Paul told the church in Rome, **“17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8:17)**
 - e. Again, this is not of our doing so we don’t get the credit for accomplishing it, but we get to share in the glory with what is accomplished! It’s as if we were on a national championship team and never played a down, but nonetheless we still got the huge ring and the trip to the White House to visit the President! We are still going to be VIP’s at all the special events and we are still going to get invitations to all the reunions!
5. Finally, Peter shows the significance of how we are being honored by demonstrating how others are not. This was a particularly sensitive subject for the Jewish believers. Peter references Isaiah again (Isaiah 8:14) when he wrote, **8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. "They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. (2:8)**
- a. Instead of the Jews seeing Jesus and running to God, they instead were offended by Him and crucified him. This rejection was prophesied of by Isaiah 600 years before it happened!
 - b. But those who repent and believe in Jesus have not stumble over Jesus, but were instead brought to repentance and were transformed by Him to actually know God! You didn’t see Jesus as somebody in your way, you saw Jesus for who He is – your Savior, Redeemer, King and GOD!
 - c. Therefore, for all of eternity those who rejected Christ, will not only acknowledge that Jesus is indeed Lord, but they will see and honor all of those who are with the Christ whom they rejected in favor of their religious culture and practices; that they rejected in favor of their own passions and desires!
6. The point again being that the world may not honor you now, just as it doesn’t honor Jesus right now either – but it’s coming! Your value will be recognized! What is honorable will be honored!

The 4th proof that all in the church are eternally valuable and as such are significant is that ...

D. The Church is God’s dwelling place! (2:4-5a)

- 1. **4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, (2:4-5a)**

2. Again, in the generic sense, to be “spiritual” is to be in an active relationship with God whereby you are experiencing Him and abiding with Him. Peter says the church, which was rejected by men, is not an inanimate object, but rather a living stone that is being built up as a “spiritual house,” that is, the place of knowing and experiencing God!
3. Jews viewed the Temple in Jerusalem as the most important building in the world because they believed it was God’s house. As such, they believed the stones that made it were the most important stones in the world. Peter says that’s not true! You are the most important building in the world because you are God’s house, and therefore, each of you that He has chosen to build His house are the most important stones in the world!
4. You, unlike the inanimate objects that were used to build the temple in Jerusalem, are not just living breathing human beings, but also those that are now spiritually LIVING because God and His Life are literally in you! You who were once dead are now alive because life itself dwells in you! Listen to what Paul wrote to the Romans,
5. **10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:10-11)**
6. The church is the dwelling place of God in the most literal sense. He literally dwells in and with His church. You are His temple, and as such, more valuable than anything in the universe, no matter what anybody on this planet says about you!

The 3rd substantial fact about your identity in Christ is that ...

(3) You have purpose. You represent God! (2:5, 9)

Peter clarifies two awesome details of your purpose. The first one is that

A. He made you priests capable of worshipping Him as He deserves. (2:5)

1. **5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**
2. First of all, the “priesthood” in the Old Testament was a group of people set apart from the rest of Israel to be the official representatives of man to God. They offered the sacrifices on behalf of the people. They prayed on behalf of

the people. The sought God's will on behalf of the people. That's what it means to be a "priest." It's very different from being a pastor. In this use of the term, the New Testament makes it clear the office of priest was fully fulfilled and replaced by Christ. I don't represent you – He does!

3. But here, Peter points to a slightly different context of priesthood. Peter demonstrates that even though the office of "priest" has been fulfilled by Christ, all who are in Christ still function as a holy (set apart in a glorious way) priesthood in that our purpose is to offer up acceptable sacrifices to God. Under the Old Testament Law (Mosaic Law) you gave your offering to a priest who then followed through on the laws of how that offering was to be presented. But now we are the ones offering sacrifices to God, however it's not animals or grain, its ourselves! The Apostle Paul wrote,
4. **1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)**
5. Some of you may think the faith and worship you offer to God is really impressive. But I'm not one who thinks that about himself. I know enough about my heart to know my faith in God is flawed with doubt, my love for God is flawed with selfishness, and my obedience to God is flawed with failure. Each of those shortcomings is called sin! So, whenever I wonder if what I have to give God is enough, if my faith is enough, if my love for Him is enough, if my obvious shortcomings in obeying Him are enough; I have to look no further, nor can I look anywhere else, than the cross of Christ!
6. "There is further, as to these benefits, a contrast between us and the rest of mankind, to be considered: and hence it appears more fully how incomparable is God's goodness towards us; for he sanctifies us, who are by nature polluted; he chose us, when he could find nothing in us but filth and vileness; he makes his peculiar possession from worthless dregs; he confers the honour of the priesthood on the profane; he brings the vassals of Satan, of sin, and of death, to the enjoyment of royal liberty."³
7. Its why the writer of Hebrews wrote,
8. **14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify**

³ Calvin, J., & Owen, J. (2010). [*Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles*](#) (pp. 74–76). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (Hebrews 9:14)

The second detail of your purpose is that ...

B. You have been made His priests to proclaim His glory! (2:9)

1. **9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.**
2. When a company is looking for somebody to be the face of their brand, they don't look for people who are rejected by society. If you get canceled by society, you are no good to a company who's trying to get society to purchase their product!
3. Furthermore, if you are unimportant, unpopular, non-persuasive, not highly talented or not very successful, then the last thing a company is going to want to do is pay you to be the public face of their brand! Seriously, it only makes sense that the person you put forward to society to represent your company and your products have some kind of status that turns the heads of society towards your company and products!
4. So, who does God chose to demonstrate His glory to the world, to demonstrate His brand? Answer, a bunch of people society has rejected and would never use to be the face of their brand! The Church is the physical manifestation of Christ in the world! He has literally chosen us to display His glory to the world and thus we are not just a priesthood but a Royal Priesthood! We are meant to carry the glory of His Royalty to the world!
5. The apostle Paul wrote,
6. **10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:10)**
7. "At Sinai, God told Moses to tell the people, "You will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Ex. 19:6). Now believers in the Church Age are called a **royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.**"⁴
8. "The word "royal" is the translation of the Greek word for "king." The Levitical priesthood were only priests. Believers in this dispensation are

⁴ Raymer, R. M. (1985). [1 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, pp. 845–846). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

king-priests, associated with the Lord Jesus who is a priest after the order of Melchisedec, a king-priest.”⁵

9. “The descriptive adjective *royal*, however, adds the dimension of kingdom and king. In the kingdom of priests (compare Exod. 19:6), there is a king. In fact, the Messiah is both priest and king, as Zechariah prophesied: “He will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne” (6:13; also see Heb. 7:14–17; Rev. 1:5–6). Whereas Zechariah prophetically portrays the Messiah as the royal priest, Peter reveals that believers are priests in a royal priesthood.”⁶

10. “He carefully points out the end of our calling, that he might stimulate us to give the glory to God. And the sum of what he says is, that God has favoured us with these immense benefits and constantly manifests them, that his glory might by us be made known: for by *praises*, or virtues, he understands wisdom, goodness, power, righteousness, and everything else, in which the glory of God shines forth. And further, it behoves us to declare these virtues or excellencies not only by our tongue, but also by our whole life. This doctrine ought to be a subject of daily meditation, and it ought to be continually remembered by us, that all God’s blessings with which he favours us are intended for this end, that his glory may be proclaimed by us.”⁷ (John Calvin)

Challenge: Your life is meant to turn heads towards the Glory of God and His salvation. Do people ask you about your faith in Christ? Do people come to you for spiritual advice or prayer? Do people treat you like a priest?

I’ll never forget not long after Keri and I, came to this church, back when Venture was named still Hardin Baptist and we met in the buildings up on Hardin Road, we got invited to dinner by one of the most sincerely kind, encouraging, serving, and giving mountain country couples I’ve ever met! Neither one of them was old, but they were both retired and a part of the Senior Adult ministry of the church. Now, be sure that I put that “mountain country” part in my description of them for a reason. Keri and I were still in the process of meeting everybody, so we were excited to get to sit down with a couple and share a meal. In addition, given the way they talked, we figured it was going to be some good down home southern cooking as well! So anyway, as we were finishing up the meal, the woman who had cooked this huge meal for us leaned slightly my direction and said, “Preacher, I need you-ins to pray for me because I’m waiting on my “testies” to come back from the hospital.” Those of you reading my notes online, “testies” is not a typo, it’s my best attempt at spelling what she said. And yes, what she said sounded like some sort of plural possessive form of

⁵ Wuest, K. S. (1997). [*Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader*](#) (Vol. 11, pp. 56–57). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

⁶ Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). [*Exposition of the Epistles of Peter and the Epistle of Jude*](#) (Vol. 16, p. 92). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

⁷ Calvin, J., & Owen, J. (2010). [*Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles*](#) (pp. 74–76). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

the word testicles! As soon as she said it Keri reached over and squeezed my leg to try and distract herself from busting out laughing. I wasn't sure what to do. We had just met this couple. I didn't know what to do other than say, "sure thing!" Well, about that time, her husband spoke up and said, "I'm waiting on my "testies" to come back from the hospital as well, so be praying for me to!" He had a big smile on his face when he said it, so to this day I don't know if he was picking on his wife and making a joke, or if he was serious. Everybody who was a part of this church back then has probably already guessed who it was, and likewise understands why I don't really know if he was kidding or not, but we all know for sure she wasn't!

Now obviously they meant for me to pray for the "test results" that they were waiting on to come back, and not the return of their "testies." Being a pastor invites people to share their prayer requests with me. Many do it out of trust that I'll actually pray for them, but some do it because they think somehow my prayers as a preacher have more power. The couple we had dinner with are some of those people that I'm sure just felt like they could trust me to pray – and boy did I!

But my point is we should all have people asking us to pray for them, not because we told them we have a position in a local church but rather, because, whether they know what they are looking at or not, they recognize a testimony of the glory of God in our life! It shouldn't just be the preacher that gets' asked to pray for peoples "testies". Every one of you should be getting those kinds of requests! HA!

Seriously every believer in Christ should have people asking them about the God they love. Every believer in Christ should have people around them that recognize enough of the glory of God coming from their life and words, that they feel they can trust them with serious issues.

People who don't know Jesus may even ask you to pray for them because they believe your prayers are better than theirs, and to that end they are right. It's not that God can't hear their prayers, but rather, its that only the redeemed go to the throne of God as His children, only the redeemed offer up prayers as priests! As believers we don't need the prayers of a preacher because our prayers, and the prayers of all the other believers in our life, are just as good as any preachers' prayers, because they are prayers of priests; prayers of those who have the right to speak to directly to God as those He WANTS TO HEAR FROM!

Listen, it's not just that your life should turn heads, because that implies something you did for your glory or even something you did to your shame! What Peter is getting at here is that your life should turn heads to Christ!

People may not realize they are even looking towards Christ when they see you, but if you are living out your God ordained calling as a child of God then people are going to see something in you that looks totally different than what they see in this world. They are going to see something that will either soften their hearts and cause them to want to know more about the God you love, or it will harden their hearts and cause them to turn away

from you, or at least keep you at arm's length. Either way, if you are a child of God your life should be turning heads to Him! So, is it?