

# Forging a Common Identity

1 Peter 2:1-12

# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

# Forging a Common Identity **Introduction**

- Technology has connected the planet, bringing 7 billion people closer to one another than we ever dreamed.
- Paradoxically, it can also isolate people who are sitting in the same room.

# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

- We increasingly desire to choose our group identities, our friends – even our definitions of family.
- Consider the following contrast.

# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

- The Cambridge Dictionary definition of **family** is:
- a social group of parents, children, and sometimes grandparents, uncles, aunts, and others who are related.

# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

- Yet, according to research released back in 2010:
- Sixty percent of Americans said that if you considered yourself to be a family, then you were one.

# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

- We are born into the world as individuals, but we are also born into families, communities and nations.
- We are likewise born again as individuals, but we all need other believers.

# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

- God's children cannot really be independent – or choose to define our family just as we please.
- We are already utterly dependent upon God.
- We should be interdependent with respect to one another.



# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

When Christians grow properly, we don't grow alone.  
We can only grow well as we grow together.

# Forging a Common Identity Introduction

1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3
2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8
3. Priests of the Same Order 2:9-10
4. Pilgrims on the Same Journey 2:11-12

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3

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- Malice = evil in general
- Deceit = fraud or craftiness
- Hypocrisy = pretending, phony behavior

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3

- 2:1 put away all malice Peter literally describes this as an accomplished act, “having set aside...”
- Envy = jealousy or ill will
- Slander = backbiting or defaming someone

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3

- 2:2 like newborn infants
- For a newborn, milk is not really optional.
- The newborn craves milk and readily demands it.

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3

- 2:2 Such should be our desire for “pure spiritual milk” or “the pure milk of the word.”
- Peter’s word for “pure” is the opposite of “deceit” in 2:1.
  - Deceit = *dolos*
  - Pure = *adolos* = unmixed, unadulterated, sincere



# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3

- 2:2 Without getting into technicalities of translation, what is the “milk” that Peter is talking about?

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3

- Wayne Grudem of Phoenix Seminary says of this verse,

*Several contextual considerations favor a reference to the written word of God, the Scriptures, whether read or listened to.*



# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3



- Here's how Warren Wiersbe see it:

*If we stop feeding on the Word, we stop growing, and we stop enjoying (“tasting”) the grace that we find in the Lord. When Christians are growing in the Word, they are peacemakers, not troublemakers, and they promote the unity of the church.*

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3



*God's word is spiritual food. We grow by it. If I want to be used of God, it is important that I fill my mind, my heart, and my life with the word of God. To have a working knowledge of God's word is vital ...*

*– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)*

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3



*That's why we teach the word of God from Genesis to Revelation at Calvary Chapel. We desire the pure milk of the word that we might grow thereby.*

*– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013)*

# 1. Children of the Same Father 2:1-3

- 2:3 When we first taste the Lord's grace, our natural reaction is to want more.
- If we nurture that desire, God doesn't disappoint.
- We should nurture every longing within us that causes us to want more of His word.

## 2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8

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- 2:4 Jesus gave Simon the nickname “Peter” or “Rocky.”
- He is partial to stone and rock comparisons.
- Peter begins with the Lord.
- We come to Him as a starting point.



## 2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8

- In Europe, old churches may contain the tombs of the nobility.
- This tomb of a Polish king is one of several in the Cathedral in Cracow.
- It is in the gathering place for worship.



## 2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8

- 2:5 Peter describes something completely different.
- The word **house** that Peter uses may mean a residence, but may also refer to the family that lives there.
- Peter describes us as “**living stones,**” a “**spiritual house.**”

## 2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8



*We are united to Christ; the living stones are joined to the cornerstone. In that way the church becomes the true house of God. Peter's language is corporate. He thinks of the spiritual temple, not as the body of an individual believer, but as the body of believers, the company of those who are joined to Christ.*

*– Edmund Clowney (1917 – 2005)*

## 2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8

- 2:6-8 Peter crowds several Old Testament references together here to make his point:
  - In 2:6 he cites **Isaiah 28:16**.
  - In 2:7 he cites **Psalms 118:22**.
  - In 2:8 he cites **Isaiah 8:14**.

## 2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8

- 2:8 Peter sees all of this as within the eternal plan of God.
- Jesus becomes for us either the Cornerstone or a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.

## 2. Stones in the Same Temple 2:4-8

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### 3. Priests of the Same Order 2:9-10

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- 2:9 Peter describes the church in terms that God used of the children of Israel back in the Old Testament.
- (Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 7:6)
- When we think of God's election, we should always think of God's grace.



### 3. Priests of the Same Order 2:9-10

- 2:9 Jesus said it like this in **John 15:16** (ESV),  
You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

### 3. Priests of the Same Order 2:9-10

- 2:9 These privileges carry a big responsibility:
- We are to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called us.”
- We are to reveal all that is best about God to a world engulfed in spiritual blindness.
- God’s grace is needed to even begin to be able to see.

### 3. Priests of the Same Order 2:9-10

- 2:10 Here Peter uses pictures drawn from the Old Testament prophet **Hosea**.
- Israel rejected God, so He rejected His people.
- He then promised to bring them back into fellowship.

### 3. Priests of the Same Order 2:9-10



- Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) picked up on some of these thoughts from Peter.

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.*

### 3. Priests of the Same Order 2:9-10

- **2:10** In **Acts 12**, Peter was rescued by an angel from Herod's prison, though he was chained to two soldiers.
- We are no longer trapped in darkness, but have been liberated so that we can freely follow Jesus.

## 4. Pilgrims on the Same Journey 2:11-12

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- Back in 1980, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers reminded us,

*“You don’t have to live like a refugee.”*



## 4. Pilgrims on the Same Journey 2:11-12

- 2:11 Peter reminds us that we are exactly that.
- sojourners and exiles The sense is that we are resident aliens or foreigners – refugees.
- We are living in a world where we don't belong.



## 4. Pilgrims on the Same Journey 2:11-12

- 2:11 We cannot withdraw from the rest of society.
- We do, however, take our standards of behavior from our real home even while we are still here.

## 4. Pilgrims on the Same Journey 2:11-12

- 2:12 And we do this so that this world may see our good deeds and glorify God when Jesus returns.

Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are children of the same Father.**

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- **We are children of the same Father.**
- This means that together we form one family.
- Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and evil speaking are things that can destroy a family.
- Therefore we should lay such things aside.

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are children of the same Father.**
- And let's continue to drink in that pure spiritual milk of God's word which provides the nourishment we need to grow.

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are stones in the same temple.**

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are stones in the same temple.**
- Each one of us fits into a space that no other stone is intended to fill.



# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**



*Not all children in a family are alike, nor are all the stones in a building identical. In fact, it is diversity that gives beauty and richness to a family or building. The absence of diversity is not unity; it is uniformity, and uniformity is dull.*

*– Warren Wiersbe*

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are priests of the same order.**

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are priests of the same order.**
- Jesus is our high priest.
- We are part of a royal priesthood.
- We are to proclaim His excellencies to a world so lost in darkness that it has lost its ability to see.

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are pilgrims on the same journey.**

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are pilgrims on the same journey.**
- We are living in a world where we don't belong, but we have not been abandoned.
- Jesus promised to be with us *“even to the end of the age.”*

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

- **We are pilgrims on the same journey.**
- And we are all on this journey together.
- Because of that, we need to strive to forge a sense of common identity.

# Forging a Common Identity **Conclusions**

**When Christians grow properly, we don't grow alone.  
We can only grow well as we grow together.**