

Becoming God's Masterpiece

1 Peter 2:22-2:12

Our text today describes what _____ when He looks at us, His church. The description begins in verse 4. The cornerstone—the first stone laid in place from which all other lines of the building were set—is Jesus. He alone sets the direction and dimensions of all the other walls and structures of this building. We always _____ our lives and plans after Him. The question for Christians and every church is: “Does it look like what Jesus _____ or _____?”

But we are stones in this spiritual house too. Our purpose is to be “A holy _____.” Like priests, we help people find God’s _____ for their sins by “offering _____ to God.” This is a beautiful picture of sharing the _____ with the lost. But we also act as priests for _____, helping brothers and sisters find God’s fresh _____, cleansing and _____ (See **Gal. 6:1 & James 5:16**).

In verse 9, he returns to his description: “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession,” God’s special possession – God _____ us, His church, so _____.

1 Peter 1:22 describes how we cooperate with God in this. We live by the _____ of the Word of God – Love one another deeply, from the heart. Another way of saying it is to love even when you must _____ to do it.

To cooperate with God in becoming the church He see requires a love that looks like that—a willingness to dig down deep to rescue the _____ or to rescue our _____ and _____ who may have fallen. It is never to decide that someone is in _____ to keep shoveling to rescue them—never gone _____ that we quit trying to bring them back. This is, in fact, the work of a holy priesthood.

I wish we could all look around and see God’s finished product. We’re still an _____. But try to be _____ with each other. God isn’t finished with us yet. We’re still becoming His _____.