



Introduction

Title: Answer The Call

Text: 1 Peter 2

Theme: Is the church organized religion or organized for mission? Jesus asks the disciples and each of us, "Who do men say that I you say I am?" This is a call to connect with the culture, confess him as the Savior, and continue to overcome in the midst of adversity.

The church is an army advancing against the gates of hell, and overcoming all apparent obstacles. We are the called.

Discussion

Read 1 Peter 2:4-9, Isaiah 28:16

This cornerstone imagery is from Isaiah 28, a foreshadowing of Jesus. Jesus is like a cornerstone. A cornerstone is the stone that is used to inform the building of every other brick used in the building. The cornerstone is not just the foundation of the building but also the stone by which other bricks are aligned. In the same way Jesus is the cornerstone of our belief system. We are “living stones” that are all reliant on Jesus in the household of faith.

1. When it comes to how you see the church, who is the cornerstone? You or Jesus?
 - a. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. How should this inform how we are living? How are we being shaped by him?

The church is not a building, but the people. It also is not a club for the elite, but a hospital for the sick. In the New Testament there aren't any Christians who were not a part of a local body of believers.

2. How does this shape what church membership should mean to the Christian?
 - a. How does this shape how we should communicate our invitation to others to come to church?
 - b. Jesus refers to the church as his bride. How should we speak about the church knowing how much Jesus loves it?

Read Galatians 6:2

The church is a place where we should experience gospel centered community. We must shun our consumerist outlook on churches and see that God wants to use the church to shape and mold us into the image of Jesus. A brick is nothing but a group of bricks become shelter, an office, a castle in God's kingdom.

3. How is God using the church to shape and mold you into a better reflection of Jesus?
 - a. How are you bearing the burdens of your brothers and sisters?

In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter illustrates a picture of Christians displaying something they could never have done alone. In the same way that a building's glory is only seen when the bricks come together, the glory of Christ is only seen when believers come together.

Read Acts 2:42-46.

4. What a beautiful picture of community. We must spend our time building each other up. How are you investing in your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Additional Reading

Additional Scriptures on the purpose of the church.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Hebrews 10:25

Ephesians 4:11-12