

1. What is the most beautiful building you've ever seen with your own eyes? What made it beautiful? What was the original intent for its design? How did that original intent convey itself in your experience?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:4–10. What is the predominant metaphor in this passage? How do people in the church reflect Jesus, the Cornerstone, as living stones?
3. What function does Christ as the Cornerstone have for a world that does not believe in Him (vv7–8)? What is the destiny of those who reject Him?
4. How must the church stand in contrast to those who stumble on the Stone?
5. What are the living stones of the church being built into? How do the descriptors in v9 come into conflict with our typically Western view of individualism? What differences are there between the ideal church community and communities built on more secular principles? Why have, historically, communism and socialism tended to fail? Why does hyper-individualism also tend to fail?
6. When the church assumes its *form* as God's spiritual house, what *functions* is it equipped to engage? How does Christ make this possible?
7. How has your concept of individualism influenced your view of the church? How could thinking about yourself as one living stone among many contribute to your understanding and appreciation of, and participation in God's spiritual house?
8. In what ways can the church better proclaim God's grace together? When the church functions as God intends, how does it demonstrate God's grace to a watching world?
9. Take a few moments to reflect on the church community into which you've been called. Pray for it, that it would represent God's grace as it lives out of its identity! And pray that you would fulfill your function as one living stone among many.