

# Catalyst: We Are the House of God

## Abide Catalyst:

In your imagination, see the house God is building for Himself. You are one of the living stones. What are implications for relating to other stones?

### **Short Version:**

In 1 Corinthians 3:16, the pronoun “you” is plural, referring to all believers:

*“Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?” (NLT)*

God is building a house using living stones. Each believer is carefully chosen and placed by God, the Master Stone Mason. Individually, we are beautiful, magnificent living stones, each gloriously unique, placed side by side with other living stones.

*“Now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:3-5*

- What does it mean to you to be a living stone, unique and carefully chosen, in God’s hands?
- What does it mean to you to be a living stone, placed by God next to the other living stones all around you?
- Try to probe some of the possible dreams and desires of God Himself as He builds this living home for Himself.

### **Long Version:**

In 1 Corinthians 6:19 (“Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit”), the pronoun “your” is singular. Each individual believer is a temple of the Holy Spirit. But in 1 Corinthians 3:16, “you” is plural:

*Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?*

It is true that God abides in each of us as believers. Individually, we experience the marvelous, focused attention of God as He crafts each custom mansion according to His specifications. We are not identical row houses! How boring that would be! No, each of us have the skillful fingerprints of the Master Architect all over our lives. But that is not the whole picture.

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Building tidbit: Stone Masonry requires special skill, a special eye, a flair for the unusual placement of each exceptional stone. Compared to brick masonry, stone masonry is much more an artform, definitely a highly skilled trade. Each stone much be carefully chosen by the mason, turned over and over in his hands, before being placed beside and around other equally beautiful, splendid stones. The fit must be perfect.

We must not only consider ourselves independently the holy dwelling place of God. At the same time, God would have us, as living stones, express a collective, powerful interdependence with other stones.

*“Now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:*

*‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’ (1 Peter 2:3-7 NIV)*

Consider, pray over, and discuss your identity as a living stone.

- What is revealed about God’s design for you in John 17:23?
  - *“I in them and You in Me, in order that they may become one and perfectly united, that the world may know and [definitely] recognize that You sent Me and that You have loved them [even] as You have loved Me.” (Amplified)*
- How is your life as a living stone reflected in Jesus statement in John 13:34,35?
  - *“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”*
- In this big picture of the house God is building, what are your thoughts and meditations regarding Christ abiding in you and you abiding in Him?
- Is God saying anything to you personally about the “living stones” you have been placed next to? Do you take initiative to strengthen the unity and connection with the “living stones” around you? Or do you chip away at the mortar that holds you together?
- Explore how God has masterfully placed you, not only surrounded by other living stones,” but with Christ Himself the “precious Cornerstone.”