



# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

2019.6.2



**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- If you were to write a letter to God, would it be "warm and familial" or "awkward and stiff"—and **why**?

Has there been a time when you were closer and more comfortable with God? Tell us about it.

- Review the six "titles" God uses for his children (see Sermon Summary). Which one is most **surprising** to you—and **why**?

Which one is **dearest** to you—and **why**?

Which one is most **challenging** to you—and **why**?

**Are you living-out your calling?**  
A biblical counselor can help:  
[counseling@tcc.org](mailto:counseling@tcc.org)

- Commenting on 1 Peter 2:6-8, Professor Leonhard Goppelt explains:

*"Christ is laid across the path of humanity on its course into the future. In the encounter with him each person is changed: one for salvation, another for destruction. One cannot simply step over Jesus to go about his daily routine and pass him by... [We are] inescapably changed through the encounter. Either one sees and becomes "a living stone", or one stumbles over Christ as a blind person and comes to ruin..."*

How have you seen this to be true in your own life?

Think of someone you know who currently is "stumbling over Christ".

Now consider the four points of **"Application-Challenge"** Peter gives us in 1 Peter 2:11-12.

Which one(s) have you applied to that relationship?

Which one(s) do you need to apply more?

**Take One Step:** What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



## Sermon Summary

Contrary to what some would have you believe, God doesn't sit up in heaven with his jaw clenched and his arms folded in a settled state of disapproval. He's not ticked off at his children for all of the times we mess up. No, he is a loving Father, and despite our sin, we are precious in his sight. Many passages make this point (check out Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 103:1-5, 11-14; Lamentations 3:25; Colossians 1:12-14; James 1:17; Romans 8:31-32). As we continue our study of 1 Peter (2:4-10) God's affirming love likewise is on display, through six "titles" he uses for his children:

**[1] Believers are living stones being built up into a spiritual house (2:4-8).** Jesus is the cornerstone and we are the living stones that make up that building. Each time someone trusts Christ as their Savior, another stone is quarried out of the pit of sin and cemented into place through the work of the Holy Spirit. And carefully overseeing this construction project is Christ himself, who is the hands on contractor of this eternal building (Matthew 16:18). But Peter tells us that to one, Jesus is a precious cornerstone, but for many he is a rock of offense (2:6). Which one is he...for you?

**[2] Believers are priests who are serving in the same temple (2:5,9).** In Scripture, priests offer up prayers, they bring spiritual sacrifices, they intercede to God on behalf of others, and they stay in tune with the spiritual side of life. While we're not all pastors, every believer is a priest, set apart by God!

**[3] Believers are a chosen race (2:9).** But don't get a big head—Deuteronomy 7:6-8 puts this into perspective! Being chosen by God says nothing about our strength or superiority, but rather about God's grace, shown to us entirely apart from any merit on our part.

**[4] Believers are a holy nation (2:9, cf. Philippians 3:20).** Christians sing a different national anthem, and pledge our allegiance to a different flag—because our true citizenship is in heaven.

**[5] We are a people for God's own possession (2:9).** Think about it. The value of even the most common things is enhanced if owned by someone significant: a book owned by Abraham Lincoln or Churchill's desk. And these are mere men! Now think of the value of something that is owned by God! What incredible worth that bestows upon us! What inexplicable dignity!

**[6] Believers are God's people who have received his great mercy (2:10).** It is as a result of God's great mercy that we have become a people who are uniquely and exclusively owned by God (also see 1 Corinthians 6:9-20).

Understanding the fact that we are not our own makes all the difference in the world in terms of how we should live. For those who don't share our faith in Christ, the earth is a playground to gratify our desires. For followers of Christ it's the place where we battle against the lusts that wage war against our souls. Peter gives us today's "Application/Challenge" (2:11-12):

### Application-Challenge

**Live a clean life.** Never assume that it makes no difference to unbelievers how we live. The truth is, they are watching! That's why Peter us to abstain from fleshly lusts. A clean life is a powerful testimony of the reality and power of our faith.

**Leave no room for slander.** Our most convincing defense is found not in how vigorously we deny slanderous charges, but rather in the silent integrity of our character. Character will preach!

**Do good deeds among unbelievers.** Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 5:16, and illustrated it in the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

**Never forget that you are being watched by an unbelieving world.**

## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.  
Let's use it learn about our "calling" as Christians...

**Monday**— Romans 1:1-7 (notice the word "called" in v. 1, 6 and 7)

**Tuesday**— Romans 8:28-30 (Who are "the called"?)

**Wednesday**— Romans 9:8-11, 21-26 (What did you contribute to your "calling"?)

**Thursday**— Romans 10:9-15 (What role do humans play in "calling" others to salvation?)

**Friday**— Romans 11:29 (How secure is the Christian's "calling"?)

**Saturday**— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 1 Peter 2:13-25.

Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?