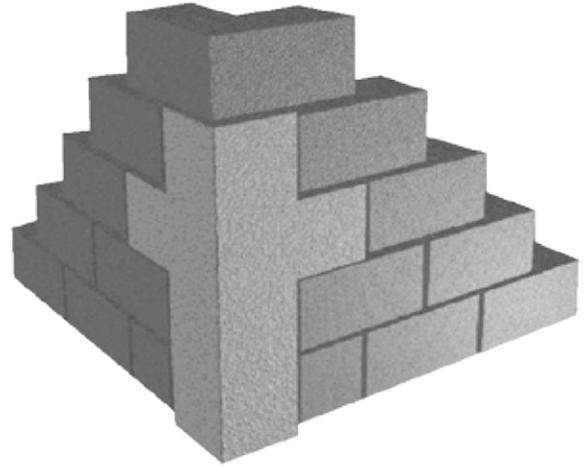


“Ye also, as Lively Stones, are built up a Spiritual House, an Holy Priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Sion a Chief Corner Stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded (put to shame and silence).’” 1 Peter 2:5-6 KJV



There's must be a fixed point in buildings from which all other measurements proceed for them to be true and plumb. A cornerstone gives three planes to which may be aligned the height, width, and breadth of the structure. The cornerstone's integrity determines the integrity of all other measurements, lines, and levels. Christ proclaimed to Peter, *“Upon this Rock I will build my Church!”* To what Rock is Christ referring? The statement Peter had just asserted, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* The Christ, referred to the prophesy a Messiah, Deliverer, would come to deliver God's people. Jesus stood in the Temple and read Isaiah's prophecy, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.’ This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears.”* The prophets constantly reiterated, *“God is my Rock and my Salvation.”* The “Rock” Jesus refers to is Himself, God, the Messiah! He further rebuked the Pharisees, *“Did ye never read in the Scriptures, the Stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the Head of the corner?”* The Church of Jesus Christ is the spiritual building in which Christ, God's Word, is the “Chief Cornerstone” or fixed point from which it derives its symmetry! He is at once designer, builder, and standard of measure by which the Church is constructed. Believers are referred to as the “Lively Stones” that complete Christ's “Spiritual House.” Quarry stones must sacrifice their uneven surfaces to be part of the building. Believers must yield to the Master Stone Cutter. Buildings are not named for their bricks and mortar, but for their builders. When we submit to Christ, the Word of God, through trusting obedience, we all fit perfectly together to bring honor and praise to the Master Builder!

Our cornerstone is God, Himself,
On ev'ry stone His hand is felt,
The yielding heart will find its place,
In God's own House, fixed by His grace! ~CGP

If you would be a part of God's dwelling place, you must submit to the Builder's design. *“And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another...as I have loved you.”* Jesus Christ's Church isn't an ORGANIZATION, but an ORGANISM; of Living Stones, molded by Christ to fit perfectly into His design!

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an Holy Temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:20-22 KJV