

SOMETHING NEW

© 2014 Mark Beard

TEXT: 1 PETER 2:1-10 (NIV)

The old debate of which is more powerful in a person's life—nature or nurture—the way we are born or the way we learn to be—is addressed in this passage from a spiritual perspective. The conclusion: It is both. In Christ we are born again with a new nature, but also are called to learn about and nurture that new nature. Consider the following *truths*:

I. A NEW NATURE NEEDS TO BE NURTURED.

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

A. GET RID OF THE OLD (v.1).

B. DEVELOP NEW CRAVINGS (v.2).

C. EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST MOTIVATION (v. 3).

II. A NEW HOUSE NEEDS A FIRM FOUNDATION.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5** 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. **6** 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.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

A. OUR CHOICE MAKES CHRIST OUR FOUNDATION AND SECURITY (v.4-6).

B. TO REJECT HIM AND HIS INFLUENCE WOULD LEAD TO OUR PERIL (v.7-8).

III. A NEW NATION NEEDS A NEW IDENTITY.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A. GOD CHOSE US FOR A NEW PURPOSE; WE MUST CHOOSE THE NEW IDENTITY (v.9).

B. OUR NEW IDENTITY IS RELATED TO WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED (v.10).

CONCLUSION

Aspects of modern psychology is concerned with understanding a person's self-image and/or changing a person's self-image in a positive way.

However, nowhere can our self-image be improved and understood better than through a relationship with Jesus Christ and understanding the *truths* of God's Word.