

Are you a 'Living Stone?'

I wonder if you've ever been asked, 'Are you alive?' Seems a bit of a funny question. However, Peter writes in the Bible (1 Peter 2) that like Jesus we too are, or should be, 'living stones.' Stones (people) that are alive to God. Alive to all that He wants to do in our lives. Alive to one another with the purpose of being built together into the community of God, which is the 'Church.' Alive to His Spirit dwelling in us. Alive to the world which looks at us and hopefully, sees Jesus. Sounds great doesn't it. But let's be honest, sometimes that not what others see. Sometimes, we the Church appear to be made up of:-

Lonely stones; those who remain self sufficient, able to cope on their own and fail to see the need of belonging with others.

Lumpy stones; those whose rough edges are pretty obvious and yet often expect others to change and fit into their shape.

Lazy stones; those who believe that the work will get done but not by them.

Leaning stones; those who rest their lives and faith on anything but Jesus the rock.

And yet God wants us to be **Living Stones**, being built together, supporting each other, working together for the common good.

A building stone (or brick) become useless by themselves, it's only when they are incorporated into a building that they really become of use fulfilling the purpose they were made for.

There is the story of the king of Sparta, who constantly boasted to a visiting monarch of the great walls of Sparta. The visiting monarch, who could not see any walls, eventually asked the king, 'where are these great walls of Sparta about which you boast so much?' The king pointed to his troops and said, 'These are the walls of Sparta, every man is a brick!' Have you ever thought of yourself as a brick (Living stone) essential to the building of God's Church, needing each other? That's how God sees us, therefore, let's ask Him to make us bricks (living stones) together so that those around us will see the living church and want to know Jesus for themselves.

Ps; at one time or another I've probably been all of the stones above!

Blessings, Rev Paul