

"Why a Nazarene?"

1 Peter 2:1-10

What did you think of the Church of the Nazarene?

Nazarenes looked strange
Nazarenes were radical
Nazarenes were like a cult

We are really all about "The Nazarene"

We are not "The Nazarene Church"
We are "The Church of the Nazarene"
"The Nazarene" is Jesus Christ

Jesus "The Nazarene" was

Rejected by men
Chosen by God
The cornerstone of our faith

Who do we think we are?

We are a chosen people!

It's all about God's amazing grace
Prevenient Grace

We are a royal priesthood!

It's not about us, it's all about them
Justification

We are a holy nation!

It's about transformation into Christ-likeness
Sanctification

We are a people belonging to God!

It's about Lordship and commitment
Consecration

So we are all about making Christ-like Disciples by:

Celebrating: Participating in joyous worship
Loving: Developing deep relationships
Serving: Contributing in sacrificial ministry
Bringing: Connecting with those not here

To be Nazarene is to become like "The Nazarene."

2:1 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.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone-rejected by men 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,

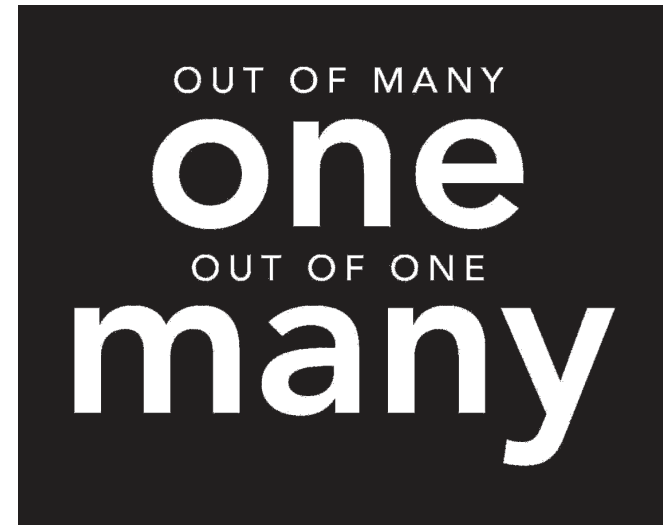
"The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone,"

8 and,

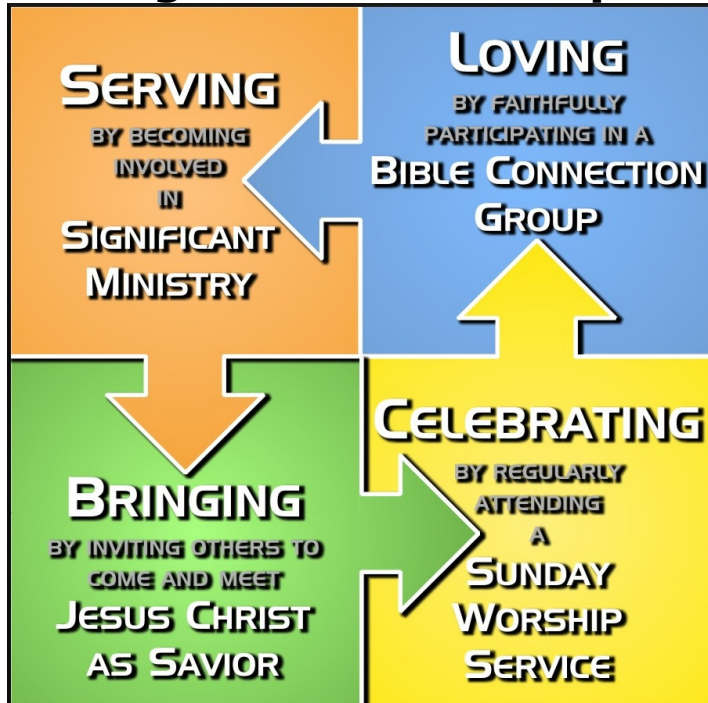
"A stone that causes men to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message-which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, 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. NIV



Making Christ-Like Disciples by:



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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middlestownnaz.com