

Living stones

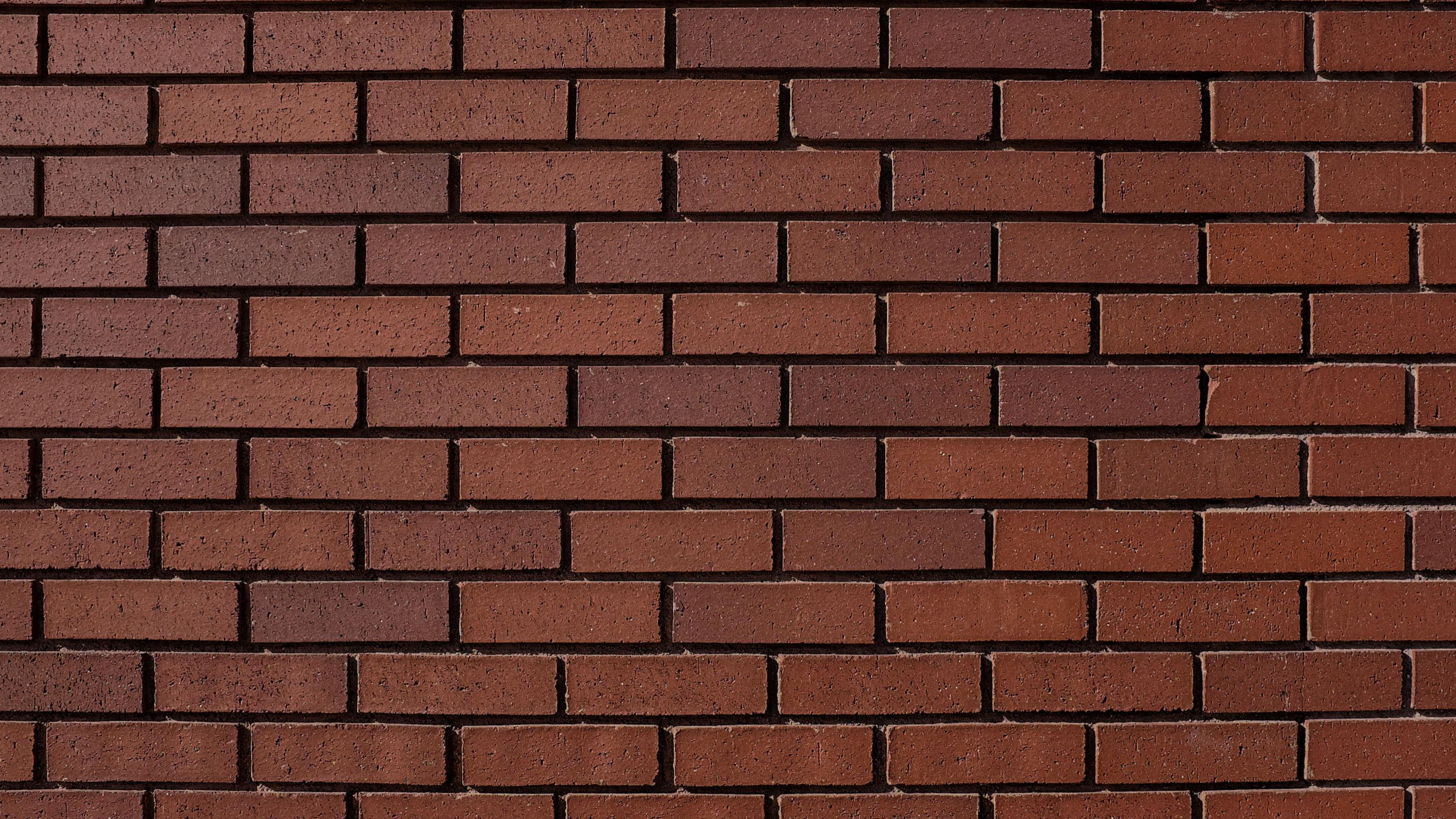
1 Peter 2:1-10













Living stones - not "bricks"





God speaks through Peter's
individuality - personhood

Living stones - not "bricks"

- Bricks = reminder of Egypt - forced labour - slavery
- Stones/rocks = reminder of Altars of patriarchs, David's sling, Daniel's vision, Isaiah's prophecies, Jerusalem/Zion/City of God's foundation
- Stones of the temple

Living stones - not "bricks"

- That we are stones not bricks - tells us our individuality is respected and maintained and incorporated into the Kingdom of God.

Living stones - not "bricks"

All living things:

1. Grow
2. Reproduce
3. Respond to stimuli
4. Breathe (Respire - make energy from food)
5. Excrete

Living stones - not "bricks"

-formed, not by a mechanism or system, but by the word of God.
- living true to the words God has spoken to you
that you have eaten
internalized
and that give you your personhood.

Living stones - not "bricks"

Psalms 122

Our feet are standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem,
Jerusalem, that is built
As a city that is compact together;

Living stones - not "bricks"

How can we who are so different live compactly - fit together?

(See 1 Cor 13)

Living stones - not "bricks"

Deuteronomy 27:5 (when you arrive in the promised land) Build there an altar to the Lord your God, an altar of stones. Do not use any iron tool on them.

1 Kings 6:7 The house (temple), while it was being built, was built of stone finished at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any iron tool heard in the house while it was being built.

Living stones - not "bricks"

Formed and shaped -

not by the insensitive tools of programmes and systems
but by the living, creative Word of God and
life of God in community.

Living stones - not "bricks"

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"Sin" is acting in a way, living a life, that
doesn't align to Jesus

(see 1 Peter 2vs 1 and on into 11 & 12)

Living stones - not "bricks"

Psalm 147

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;

he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted

and binds up their wounds.

Living stones - not "bricks"

Neh 4:1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? **Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble — burned as they are?**"

Living stones - not "bricks"

Eph 5:25-27

.... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Living stones - not "bricks"

Eph 2:21

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Summary

- We are "Living Stones" not "Bricks"
- This "living stones" metaphor comes put of Peter's individuality-personhood - We don't lose who we are when we join the church!
- Living things grow and change - so the local church will grow and change and that's good!
- God is not violent with us to make us fit the church, but - once baptised - He takes us as we are and gives us all the tools we need to live life in community.
- We need each other to live aligned to Christ.
- God is building a Glorious House that attracts and transforms the World.