

Hard Rock Hearts

Joining Our Living Cornerstone

March 31, 2024

Today is our Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection! **He is risen! He is risen indeed!**



And if we *love* the Lord with *all* our heart, and *believe* in our heart God raised Him from the *dead*: **We will rise! We will rise indeed!** Which is *why* it's wise to *scrutinize* our heart. So I ask: **What shape is your heart in?** We *think* of a heart as being this shape. When, in *reality*, it's this shape. *No one* is sure where the shape we *associate* with a heart *originates*, but *everyone* agrees that **it's simply the shape of the mirror image, of two hearts united as one**, in a way *no man* could separate. Which is from *Adam's* speech in Eden, regarding himself and Eve; and it's from *Paul's* quote in Ephesians ... regarding *Jesus* ... and *us*. Saying:

Husbands, love your wives, just as *Christ* loved the church and gave himself up for her ... to *present* her to himself as a *radiant church*, without *stain* or ... *blemish*, but *holy* and *blameless*. ... "For this reason **[quotes Paul]** a man will leave His father and mother and **be united** to His wife, and **the two will become one flesh.**" **[Adding]** This is a *profound mystery*—but I *am* talking about *Christ* and the church. – Ephesians 5:25-32 NIV

Behold! The *Lamb of God* who *takes away* the sin of the world! – John 1:29 NKJ

[To whom the Lamb vowed] "I will give you a *new heart* and ... **remove from you your heart of stone** and give you a **heart of flesh.**" – Ezekiel 36:26 NIV

[Explaining] "I will give them an **undivided heart**" **[of flesh]** – Ezekiel 11:19 NIV

And **the two (united hearts) will become one (undivided) flesh!** That *no one* can separate! So:

Let us *rejoice* and be *glad* and give Him *glory*! For the *wedding* of the *Lamb* has come, and His *bride* has made herself *ready*. – Revelation 19:7-9 NIV

[So] Why then do you *harden* your hearts? – 1 Samuel 6:6 NKJ

We think of a *Biblical* millstone as being *this* shape. When in *reality*, it was this shape. These are in *Capernaum*, Jesus' old home office and *Headquarters*, on the *Sea of Galilee*. And that's the *lower half*. And *that's* what *Scripture* compares to the *hard heart* of a *seriously strange symbolic king*: Leviathan, the *serpent* of the *turbulent sea*! God himself told *Job*, that:

His heart is as *hard* as stone, even **as hard** as the *lower millstone*. ... **[And]** He is king over *all* the children of *pride* **[hardened, un-united hearts]**. – Job 41:24, 34 NKJ

This millstone *comparable* isn't a *coincidence*. **The lower half resembles an un-united heart of stone**, that the *Lamb* vowed to *remove* when His children are called to *humble* and *soften* their heart, to be united with a very *different* stone: our *Cornerstone*, the *Rock* of our salvation! Cuz we:

Come to Christ, **[the King of kings]** who is the Living Cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by the **[hard-hearted and half-hearted]** people, but He is precious to God who chose Him. And now God is building you, as living stones, into His spiritual temple." – 1 Peter 2:4-5 NLT

"For indeed, **[Jesus said]** the kingdom of God is within you." – Luke 17:21 NKJ

Don't you know **[asks Paul]** that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ... God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. – 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NIV



But we think of a cornerstone as being *this* shape. But *that's* so Roman. In reality, temples and synagogues **in Jesus' day, especially in Galilee, and specifically in Capernaum, were this shape!** Cuz they were built with pillars; and that's how they're joined together in the corner! And, be it coincidence or providence, **that's the shape of two hearts of flesh united as one.** And:



[You are] God's building. **[Declares Paul; and]** By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, **[We'll see in a moment why he's a wise builder]** and someone else is building on it. **[Cuz we're in this together]** But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the One already laid, which is Jesus Christ. – 1 Corinthians 3:9-11 NIV



They took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. – Acts 13:29 NAS



[And after that] **[Peter]** said ... "Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified ... is the Stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the Chief Cornerstone ... for there is no other name under heaven ... by which we must be saved." – Acts 4:8-12 NKJ



[And before that, Simon-Peter famously said] "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon ... you are Peter, [lit. a rock] and on this Rock [of the Living Christ] I will build My church, [with like-minded, albeit imperfect, rocks like you] and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." – Matthew 16:15-18 ESV

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine **[says Jesus]** and puts them into practice is like **[Paul, who called himself]** a wise man who built his house on the Rock." – Matthew 7:24 NIV

[Cuz] You also, **[just]** like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house – 1 Peter 2:4-5 NIV

Beholding as in a mirror the glory ... transformed into the same **[mirror] image** – 2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJ

[Which means] God's household, which is the church **[the bride and mirror image of the glory]** of the living God, **[is built into]** the pillar and **[built on the]** foundation of the Truth. – 1 Timothy 3:15 NIV

Know why? Cornerstone pillars were built by stacking heart-shaped cross sections. Which is why:

All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of My God – Revelation 3:12 NLT

Therefore, you are ... [fellow] members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **[with]** Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. – Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJ



[Cuz the *Lamb* made His vows, saying] “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; [and] I will remove from them their [*heavy burden of a lone*] heart of stone and give them a [*united*] heart of flesh.” – Ezekiel 11:19 NIV



[In Revelation, an *angel* says] “I will show you the *bride*, the *Lamb’s wife*” ... *holy Jerusalem* ... having the glory of God. [And] Her Light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone ... [And maybe that’s because] The first [i.e. chief] foundation stone was jasper [which is usually red; blood red] – Revelation 21:9-11, 19 NIV

And be it coincidence or providence, it looks like that guy’s holding a heart in his hand!

[Now] He *will be* as a *sanctuary*, but [also] a *Stone of stumbling* ... a *snare* to the *inhabitants of Jerusalem*. And many among them shall *stumble*; they shall *fall* and be *broken* – Isaiah 8:14-15 NKJ

They *stumble*, being *disobedient* to the *Word* – 1 Peter 2:8 NKJ

[And] Because of your *stubbornness* [NKJ: *hardness*] and your *unrepentant heart*, you are storing up *wrath against yourself* for the Day of God’s *Wrath* – Romans 2:5 NIV

Is not My *Word* [warns the *Lord*] ... like a *hammer* that *breaks the rock in pieces*? – Jeremiah 23:29 NKJ



And be it *coincidence* or *providence*, those are *hearts of stone*, that the *Lord removed*, albeit by the *Romans* (in 70^{AD}), but *just as He’d warned ‘em*, when:



His disciples came up to show Him the *buildings of the temple*. [In *Jerusalem*] And Jesus said ... “Not *one stone* shall be left *here upon another*, that shall not be *thrown down.*” – Matthew 24:1-2 NKJ



And *40 years* after the *sacrificial death* and *resurrection* of the *Lamb*, those very *temple stones* were quite literally *thrown down*, where they *remain* to this *day*! And the *Romans* also *scattered the stones of every synagogue* in *Israel*, and *iconically* in *Galilee*, **leaving hard rock hearts littering the landscape of the legalists**. But, when Jesus was *born*, He was dedicated in that *same temple*, when *Simeon the prophet* warned *Mary*:

[That] “This *Child* is *appointed* for the *fall* and *rise* of many in *Israel* ... and a *sword* will *pierce* even your *own soul* ... that *thoughts* from *many hearts* may be *revealed.*” – Luke 2:34-35 NAS

Which is why Peter so *passionately proclaimed* to the *massive crowd* on the Day of *Pentecost*:

“God has made *Him* both *Lord* and *Christ*—this *Jesus* whom *you* crucified.” Now when they *heard* this, they were pierced to the heart, and said ... “What shall we do?” ... “[*Repent* and] be *baptized* in the name of *Jesus Christ* for the *forgiveness* of your *sins*” – Acts 2:36-38 NAS

[For] By His *power* God *raised* the *Lord* from the *dead*, [**He is risen indeed!**] and He will raise *us* also. [**We will rise indeed!**] ... [For] the *two* will become *one* [*united heart of*] flesh.” But [that’s symbolic, because] whoever is *united* with the *Lord* is *one* with *Him* in *Spirit*. – 1 Corinthians 6:17 NIV

Those hard rock hearts are still hanging around Jesus’ old headquarters. And they’re bigger than you think; notice the *foot*. And get this: **rejected cornerstones and pillars were pierced**, to be *repurposed* as *anchors*. Not to be *cast into the sea*, but to be laid *along* the shores of *Galilee*, for *securing boats*. And:

Jesus Christ [our Living Cornerstone, rejected and pierced] [is] ... our hope – 1 Timothy 1:1 NKJ

[And] We have this hope as an anchor for the soul – Hebrews 6:19 NIV

Because, **He's the pierced Cornerstone that secures the tie that binds our hearts as one.** So:



Be strong and take heart, all you who *hope* in the Lord. – Psalm 31:24 NIV

[Because] Christ is *faithful* as a Son over God's house. And we are His house, if we hold on to our courage and the anchor of our hope of which we boast. ... [So] Encourage one another *daily* ... so that none of you may be hardened by sin's *deceitfulness*. – Hebrews 3:6-13 NIV



Because, as *sure* as that *serpent* came into God's garden ...



"Temptations to *sin* are *sure* to come, but *woe* to the *one* through whom they come! It would be *better* for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea" – Luke 17:1-2 ESV



You see, down here, **every life begins with an isolated heart, separated from our Savior**, being devoid of God's Word, and in dire need of His Anchor of Hope. And **our heart is already hung around our neck** by our jugular, just counting the beats till we get to go home. But **the longer we leave it on its own, the stronger it hardens into stone.** So:



Let your heart keep My commandments whole-heartedly ... let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck ... [and] trust in the Lord with all your heart – Proverbs 3:3-6 ESV



[Cuz] The Lord gave [Moses] the two *tablets of stone* [which, by coincidence or providence overlap to *form a heart of stone*] – Deuteronomy 9:11 NKJ

[And therefore, and likewise] Judah's *sin* is engraved ... on the *tablets of their hearts [of stone]* – Jeremiah 17:1 NIV

But the *Lamb* made a vow to "write it on their hearts" (Jer 31:33) "of flesh". (Ezek 36:26) So then:

Show that you are a letter from Christ [to all the divided hearts He died for] ... [written] with the Spirit of the living God, not on *tablets of stone* but on *tablets of human hearts*. ... For the letter [of the Law] kills, but a letter from the Spirit gives life. – 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6 NIV

[Because] He only is my *Rock* and my *Salvation*; [lit. *Yeshua/Jesus*] – Psalm 62:2 NKJ

[And] The Lord lives ... the *Rock*, my *Savior*! – 2 Samuel 22:47 NIV

[So] Let us shout *joyfully* to the *Rock* of our *salvation*. – Psalm 95:1 NKJ

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

[And] *Though my flesh and my heart fail*, God is the *Rock* of my *heart* – Psalm 73:25-26 NAB

Because **our heart is the new home office, and our mind the headquarters of His Kingdom!** And so, **in what shape is your heart: a lone millstone or united Cornerstone?**