

 The beliefs we hold onto, the groups we belong to, the people we follow/idolize, will define who we are.

## Influencers that define my identity:

- Culture says is "right, wrong"
- Religious beliefs and values.
- Occupation, education
- social and political movements
- social media platforms
- Right clothes, labels
- Groups.



1. Has your relationship with Jesus brought you to a fork in the road? My beliefs, my behaviors, will point to who I really am and who I really belong to.

Jesus will always bring us to a moment of decision:

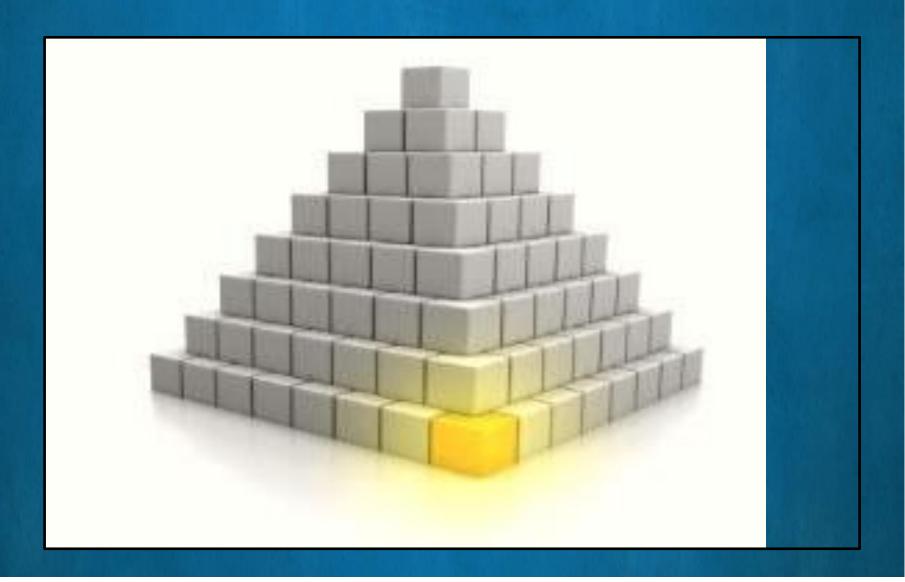
- A. V8. He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall... (Acts 4:12-19)
- B. V9. You are not like that, for you are ...

- 2. The Christians had *learned* of the kindness of Jesus. They had *developed* a "taste" for what Jesus offered. A new personal identity was being formed.
  - A. Tasted. V2:3.
  - B. Craving the "milk of Jesus"
  - C. Result: coming to Christ. V 2:4.
  - D. Result: spiritual connections. V 2:5



- 3. Has your relationship to Jesus given you a new way to define whose you are? Would you describe yourself as a "living stone," or a "dead rock"?
- A. As "living stones" we are (v2:9):
  - Chosen people.
  - Royal priests.
  - Holy nation.
  - Belonging to Jesus.
  - Grouped in fellowship.
- B. "No identity" was transformed. V 2:10

## Living stones connected to the Cornerstone!



## Next step.

1. Will you do an assessment of your thoughts, behaviors, and your groups? Are any "out of alignment" with Jesus? Are any impacting how you are in relationship with Jesus? Rebuke satan, the roaring lion, by cutting them off from your life.