

**Losing My Religion**  
Part 4: **House of Cards**<sup>1</sup>  
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**Passage [READ IT]:**

John 2:13-22

**Principles [KNOW THEM]:**

The Bible tells us how God moved out of inanimate religious structures and into the hearts of a people fully yielded to Him.

Characteristics of an **Organized Irreligious Church (OIC)**

It is not made with bricks and mortar, but with flesh and blood.

It prioritizes people over property

It is an organism and not an organization.

It is governed by relationships not rules.

It is a movement not a meeting.

**Practices [DO THEM]:**

Don't just attend a church, BE the church: Are you in community? Are you serving and being served?

**Daily Readings:**

**Monday:** Genesis 11

**Tuesday:** 2 Chronicles 6

**Wednesday:** Isaiah 66

**Thursday:** Ezekiel 10

**Friday:** Ezra 3

**Saturday:** John 2

**Sunday:** Revelation 21-22

**Check out these books on this topic:**

*The End of Religion*, Bruxy Cavey

*The Barbarian Way*, Erwin McManus

*Deep and Wide*, Andy Stanley

**Past sermon series on this topic:**

*U R the Church & Built to Last*

[ssbc.church/gather/message-series](http://ssbc.church/gather/message-series)

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the sermon titles "What's in a Name?" Originally preached at SSBC on 6/8/2014

## Small Group Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. How would you describe your church to a friend who is skeptical about church?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read 1 Peter 2:1-8
  - a. Peter uses two different illustrations to describe Christ followers. What are they and what do they tell us about the nature of the church?
  - b. What does Peter mean by "living stones"? What is the difference between a stone and a living stone? How does this idea relate to the church?
  - c. Who is the "Cornerstone"? What is the significance of a cornerstone in construction? How does this illustration relate to the church?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12
  - a. What is a priest? What does it mean that God has set apart *all* of His followers (the church) as a "Royal Priesthood"? What would change in our church if every member acted like a priest?
  - b. What was our condition before God set us apart? How do past failures help us to fulfill God's call to be a nation of priests?
  - c. Why does our behavior among "gentiles" or unbelievers matter? What does it mean to live as aliens or exiles in a foreign land?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17
  - a. What is your reaction to Peter's instructions in verses 13-15? What did this look like for Peter living under the Roman Empire? What would it have meant for believers living in Nazi Germany? How does it apply to us today?
  - b. What responsibilities go along with freedom? How does this relate to the church?
  - c. What is an example of someone using their freedom in Christ as a cover-up for evil?
  - d. What four directives does Peter give in verse 17? Which one is hardest for you and why? What will you do this week to embrace that command?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. How does your life outside of the church building reflect the values of Christ's Kingdom? Is there any way in which you are using your freedom in Christ as a cover up for evil? What do you need to do to "grow up into" Christ? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.