

What it Means to be a Priest

Scripture:

1st Peter 2:4-10 “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” ⁷Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. ⁹But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

Introduction:

It is time that all believers begin to realize who they really are. We're not just saved people with an eventual destination of heaven. We have been left here on this planet to affect the society we are a part of. We are a company of priests, and as such, we represent God before people and represent people before God. What a high calling. What does being a priest before God mean to the sold out believer.

I. Being a priest means that we have access to the Father.

Hebrews 10:19-22 “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

- A. The blood of Christ has cleansed us of every sin that would prevent our access to the Father's throne.
- B. Because we have been cleansed by Christ's blood, no condemnation has a right to come to us.
- C. This access is granted to all who become a part of the unified body of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-18 “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

- 1. If we hold on to our prejudices, doctrinal divisions clergy laity divisions we hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in providing a priesthood to the world.
- 2. When Jesus died, He dealt with hatred that separates. When we come to Christ Jesus, He begins the work of replacing hatred with love.

II. Being a priest means that we are dedicated to the purposes of God for our lives.

- A. The Apostle Paul called for a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

- 1. Presenting our bodies means we give our energy, our physical resources, our minds emotions and wills in service to God.

2. We must allow the Spirit of God to renew our minds so that we will not think the way we did before we became priests unto the living God.
- B. It is God's purpose for us that we be dedicated to prayer. There's power in prayer.
Revelation 8:3-4 *"Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand."*
 - C. It is God's purpose that we be dedicated to praise and worship.
Hebrews 13:15 *"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."*
 - D. It is God's purpose that we be dedicated to giving.
Philippians 4:18-19 *"Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*
 1. A gift, when it is a sacrifice is a sweet smelling aroma to God.
 2. God's promise to supply all your need is given to a people who have made a sacrifice in giving.
Luke 6:38 *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

III. **Being a priest means that we are intercessors before God on behalf of those that don't yet know Him. (Representing people before God)**

I Timothy 2:1 *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men..."*

- A. If a person doesn't know God, he has no automatic access to God and needs someone to represent him.
- B. God promises to answer when His people pray.
II Chronicles 7:14 *"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*
- C. Think of the power we have when we are praying for the unsaved.
II Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

IV. **Being a priest means that we represent God before people.**

I Peter 2:9 *"...that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..."*

Mark 16:15-18 *"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*