

The Church as a Royal Priesthood. 1 Peter 2:4 – 12



What word comes to mind when you hear the word ‘*priest*’? Did you think of yourself or the people you know from your church? In our last study we thought about the Church as a holy temple being constructed by God from living stones (us). But in this study we will see that we’re not only God’s temple, but also his priests (so much for your English teacher’s warning not to mix metaphors). The apostle Peter writes, “*You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*” (1 Peter 2:5)

In Old Testament times Israel’s priests were selected only from the tribe of Levi and, even more exclusively, from the family line of Aaron, the brother of Moses. These priests were specially set apart to offer sacrifices to God on behalf of his people. So in what sense are ordinary people like us called to be God’s holy priests; and what spiritual sacrifices should we be offering to God?

1. Read 1 Peter 2:4 – 8. Even though Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone of God’s temple, and also God’s Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), he was rejected by many of the priests and religious leaders of his time; and he continues to be rejected by many people today. How does the rejection Christ has experienced relate to our status as his priests in this world?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:9 – 10. How did we become consecrated as God’s holy priests?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:11 - 12. Since priests are people who are set apart to perform sacred duties, how do we keep ourselves clean and pure to do God’s holy work?
4. What are some of the priestly tasks that God has given us, his Church, to do? (e.g. 1 Peter 2:5, 12)
5. Are you comfortable and confident with your role as one of God’s priests? Explain.

Pray that God will help our church to become a holy priesthood within this sinful world. Ask God to equip us by his Holy Spirit so that we can accomplish the work he has given us to do.