

The Priesthood of All Believers

Series: Sustainable Faith: Together

1 Peter 2:4-5 NLT (1017)

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1 Peter 2:4-5 NLT ⁴*Come to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by the people, but he is precious to God who chose him. ⁵And now God is building you, as living stones, into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are God's holy priests, who offer the spiritual sacrifices that please him because of Jesus Christ.*

I. The role of a priest

a. The role of the priest in all religions

b. What Jesus accomplished as our great high priest

1 Timothy 2:5 ⁵*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*

Hebrews 5:4-6 ⁴*No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁶And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."*

Matthew 27:51 ⁵¹*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

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II. The privilege we have as “God’s holy priests”

a. Access to a personal God

Exodus 19:12 ¹²Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

Exodus 20:18-19 ¹⁸When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

Exodus 34:29-30 ²⁹When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.

Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT ¹⁴That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. ¹⁵This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.

b. Accountability to a holy calling

1 Peter 2:5 NLT ...you are God’s holy priests, who offer the spiritual sacrifices that please him because of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:15-16 ¹⁵Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Romans 12:1 ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.