Living as Priests

1 Peter 2:4–10 (NIV)

We Long for God

At the Top

“God, there’s got to be more than this.”

—Tom Brady (2005)

At the Bottom

“A searching for something beyond what the world contains.”

—Bertrand Russell

Three Responses to Our Longing

The Fool's Way

Chase the next thing.

The Disillusioned "Sensible Man"

Bury the longing as childish.

The Christian Way

Pursue the desire for God.

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

—C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Our Problem This Morning

Our world desperately needs Christians who live as priests, but most Christians shrug off priesthood to live as consumers.

A priest is a **mediator between God and man**.

The Call of the Church

1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

A priesthood set apart for God, pointing the world to the all-sufficient sacrifice of Jesus

Living as Consumers

We come, we take, and we go.

We Don't Identify as Priests

- **Personally,** our identity is elsewhere.
- **Publicly,** we keep our faith quiet.

We Don't Act as Priests

- We won't live as a sacrifice.
- We're too busy to serve.
- We don't pray for others.

The Big Idea

Through faith in Jesus, the perfect High Priest, we are called to be a royal priesthood, so we must identify and act as priests.

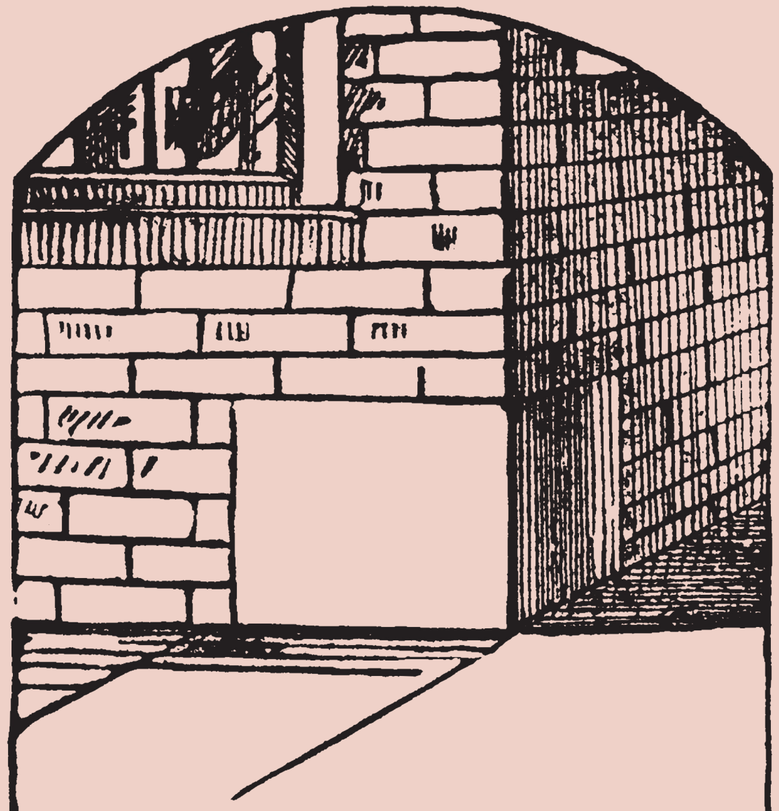
Main Point 1:
Foundation

Jesus is our foundation as the perfect High Priest.

The Cornerstone

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

1 Peter 2:6



The gap between a holy God and sinful people is insurmountable for us, but not for God.

A Shadowy Priesthood

- Set apart: washed, clothed, and anointed
- Offered sacrifices in the worshiper's place
- Sinners themselves (Hebrews 7:27)

"Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins."

Hebrews 10:11

Jesus Casts the Shadow

Lived Without Sin

Hebrews 7:26

Offered Himself Once for All

Hebrews 7:27

Sat Down: It Is Finished

Hebrews 10:12

“For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”

Hebrews 10:14

An Undying Mediator and Living Way

"He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

Hebrews 7:25

"We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way..."

Hebrews 10:19–20

So, turn to Jesus

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

Hebrews 10:22

The way is still open. Draw near.

Main Point 2: Identity

We must identify as priests.

To Israel · Exodus 19:6

“You will be for me a kingdom of priests
and a holy nation.”

To the Church · 1 Peter 2:9

“You are a chosen people, a royal
priesthood, a holy nation.”

Personally: Receive Your Identity

A Chosen People
He chose you by mercy, not merit.

Deuteronomy 7:7–8

A Holy Nation
You’re holy because you belong to God.

1 Peter 2:9

God’s Special Possession
Out of all He owns, you are His treasure.

Exodus 19:5

A Royal Priesthood
Washed by His blood, born into the King’s family.

Romans 8:16–17

Publicly

Identify Yourself as a Priest

"...that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

1 Peter 2:9

Share yourself with others

Don't be afraid to share that you are a Christian.

- Say you went to church.
- Share what God is doing.
- Be a person of prayer.

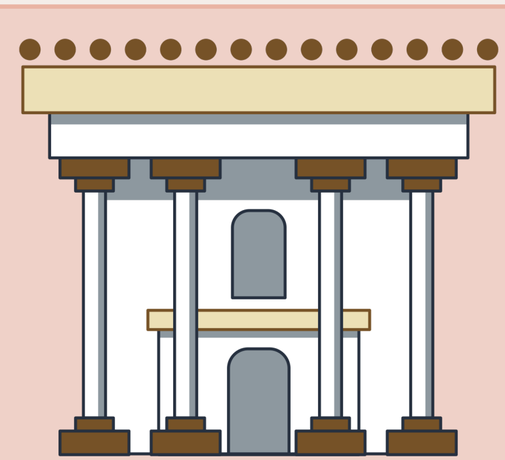
Main Point 3: Action

We must act as priests.

Live as a Sacrifice · Romans 12:1

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

Take Your Place in the Priesthood



"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood."

1 Peter 2:5

> *A stone with a good view of the ongoings of the temple isn't apart of the temple.*

Learn on Purpose

"Do what it says." (James 1:22)

- **What do I obey?**
- **Who do I pray for?**
- **Who do I tell?**

We Need You!

Serving is how a stone takes its place in the wall.

Some practical applications:

1. **Join a small group.**
2. **Serve on Sunday** in one service; worship in the other.

Scan to sign up

Your Sunday is perhaps your best opportunity to act as a priest and serve in the priesthood.

Share Your Faith with Others

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 2:5

Our priestly work never adds to the finished sacrifice of Jesus; our work is to point people to Him.

Whether they respond is up to God; whether we share the truth is up to us.

Bring people before Christ

- Aaron bore Israel’s names over his heart. (Exodus 28:29)
- Jesus always lives to intercede for us, and we join Him. (Hebrews 7:25)
- “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16)

This week: start with one person, by name.
If an opportunity arises, ask how to pray, then pray!

Embrace the Priestly Life

Jesus finished the work, and He chose you to be a priest. So live like one.

- **Accept the identity:** belong to Him as a royal priest and His beloved child.
- **Act as a priest:** Live as a sacrifice, be apart of the priesthood, and point others to your High Priest.