



“Priesthood of Every Believer”

I Peter 2:4-10

June 22, 2014

What Does It Mean that I am a Priest?

1. Every Believer Is _____ Before God.
2. Every Believer Has _____ to the Father.
3. Every Believer has the _____ to Minister to the Body According to Their Giftedness.
4. Every Believer Has the Privilege to _____ and Interpret the Scripture for Themselves by the _____ of the Holy Spirit.
5. Every Believer Is to Be a Priest Within the Context of a Body of Believers (A local church)
6. Every Believer Is to Be a _____ between God and man
7. Every Believer Is Under the Authority of God’s Word and Also Is to Follow Godly Leadership.

My Responsibility As a Priest

1. We Need to be _____ to the Father daily
(*Accessing His Throne*)
2. We need to be _____ His Word daily
(*Accessing His Instructions*)
3. We need to be _____ to a church family
(*Accessing His Fellowship*)

4. We need to be _____ to one another
(*Accessing His Ministry*)
5. We need to be building bridges to people
(*Accessing His Power*)
6. We need to _____ His authority and the godly authority He has placed in our lives
(*Accessing His Authority*)

Our Response:

- ✓ Have you clearly understood the Word of God this morning or this week that you need to become a Christ Follower? It’s as simple as ABC! The password if you will is Jesus! **Admit** to the Lord that you are a sinner, **Ask** Him to forgive your sins, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!!
- ✓ The Call is crystal clear this morning – You must **be a part of a local Church** in order to be the Priest you are called to be! SO if the Lord is calling you to join the Petal FBC Church Family and honor Him by not attending but joining His family then do that today!
- ✓ Be certain that you are **serving somewhere** in the body! If you don’t know how or where, please see a Staff Member or Church Leader and we will help you get plugged in to a ministry.
- ✓ This week spend time thanking God for the direct access to Him and take more advantage of that access this week by setting aside time throughout today to pray. Doesn’t have to be long, just “breath prayers” every day this week
- ✓ Who are you being a **bridge builder** to in your life - to those who have yet to hear the truth? How are you helping our Church be a Bridge Builder to Petal and to the ends of the earth? Be involved in building bridges.

WHY WE ARE BAPTISTS?

“Priesthood of Every Believer”

I Peter 2:4-10

June 22, 2014 AM Worship

See Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6 Echoes this same truth

An important Baptist distinctive and a theological doctrine that most Protestant denominations share in common and that is the priesthood of every believer. It was lost in the dark ages but Luther recovered it in the reformation. It is found in the Preamble to the Baptist Faith and Message and it is one that really guides the rest. “Baptists emphasize the soul’s competency before God, freedom in religion, and the priesthood of the believer. However, this emphasis should not be interpreted to mean that there is an absence of certain definite doctrines that Baptists believe, cherish, and with which they have been and now closely identified. It is the purpose of this statement of faith and message to set forth certain teachings which we believe.”

ILLUS: Backstage passes (behind the curtains, no admittance doors, beckon me) Or how about Access denied on a computer program, or to your bankcard, have to have a password on everything now.

The password to the presence of God is JESUS

There are divisions between people, access and no access.

The Bible is clear: there is no real division between Christians in the Bible. We are all called to ministers, to be priests before God.

What Does It Mean that I am a Priest?

This was an Old Testament word that was very important and even in the day of Jesus it still was. The priests were the center of the Jewish community really and helped the nation of Israel have access to God.

Without the priest there was no access, no forgiveness of sins, no sacrifices could be offered. Those priests were the only ones who could go into the Holy of Holies in the OT Temple and that was only once a year and that was so high and holy that they would tie a bell around him in case he went in and he died because he wasn’t rightly prepared and they had to pull him out. Access to the presence of God was limited.

However all of that changed when Jesus came and died on that cruel

rugged cross and we are reminded of the Veil in the Temple between of the Holy of Holies the Holy place being torn in two, from the top to the bottom signifying that the Lord had torn it and that now every believer because of the sacrifice of Jesus allowed every person the direct and complete access to God Himself! This was a seismic shift and one that we can rejoice in today! There was no more barrier – only our sin and choice could prevent us from access to the Father any longer! It was the ushering in of the new covenant and now God’s presence would not reside in a building, a special place but in the hearts and lives of every believer. And by the way, because of that we are called the Temple of the Holy Spirit and thusly we are called to glorify God with our lives. That is our sacrifice of worship as [Romans 12:1](#) reminds us.

I want to be clear again, we are not knocking any other denomination or saying we are better than anybody else, but simply preaching what we clearly believe that the Word of God teaches us and why we believe what we do because it’s important to know and understand.

1. Every Believer is Equal Before God.

The ground is level at the foot of the cross. Nothing else really operates this way, there is poor and rich, boss and employee, privileged and unprivileged, class systems around the world and in places like India you can never get out of the one you are born into! Yet when we come and stand and look at the cross of Christ, we see that no matter our status, race, language, country in which we live, rich or poor, free or not, we all have access to the cross of Christ. Nobody has a hotline to the Lord that someone else doesn’t. Now it is certainly true that it can seem that way but many times it is because of the depth of that person’s personal and private relationship with the Lord.

2. Every Believer Has Direct Access to the Father

Not just for a chosen few – the Priests were chosen because they were a part of the Levi Tribe, but only a select few were able to minister in Jerusalem and even fewer in the Holy of Holies. Today, we are all His chosen people and therefore we don’t need a priest or anyone else in order to access God, or to come into His presence. (The tearing of the veil in the temple holy of holies) [Hebrews 4:16](#), tells us to come boldly into His throne room. Not of pride but great humility and thankfulness

but yet with the understanding that He invites me to come and be with Him and pray to Him and hear from Him!

Truth song: Chorus: “Now I Can Go, Into the Holy of Holies, I can kneel and make my petition known, I can go into the holy of holies And although I'm just a common man Because of God's redemption plan I can boldly approach the throne”

3. Every Believer Has the Responsibility to Minister to the Body According to Their Giftedness.

Because we are all priests each one of us unique and different, each of us bringing something different to the table, the table being the body of Christ, the church, we therefore each have an awesome responsibility to use our gifts, our calling, our SHAPE/PLACE to serve the body. So as a result, every one of us are priests and ministers – not reserved for the “paid ministerial staff” but that is the privilege and also the responsibility of every believer. Yet again, this is yet another reason why you can't follow Christ and not be a part of the body of Christ. You have a hard time using your gifts on yourself alone. You can't just minister to yourself!

4. Every Believer Has the Privilege to Read and Interpret the Scripture for Themselves by the Illumination of the Holy Spirit.

We are to wrestle with God's Word for ourselves.

We are not to leave it up to some preacher or teacher to just spoon feed us the truth. We need to examine it for ourselves.

The Holy Spirit must be our guide, and we must study it, and know it and compare it to other texts in the Bible and also listen to others, but ultimately the Spirit gives us the ability to read and understand.

Without Him showing us though it will not make sense, it will not be clear and we won't understand how to really apply it to our lives.

It also means that we can disagree on how we read **certain** Scriptures, yet maintain a common love and respect for each other and we will.

ILLUS: Brett and me and other close friends of mine

5. Every Believer is to be a priest within the context of a body of believers. (A local church) Men to their families and also of us to our families, neighbors and friends.

Doesn't stand by itself, priests were part of a community. So too we are to be a priest in community, in the local church, where we can exercise our gifts as we mentioned earlier.

It is so we don't go off on some wild tangent, be by yourself and do your own thing. It provides us sounding boards, a place to bounce our ideas off, and see if we are on the right track. We have a tendency to get off track when left by ourselves.

Quote by Dr. Mac Brunson: "The priesthood of the believer meant that you were responsible to be a priest to those who are your neighbors and family and to minister to those around you. It has never meant that I can pick up the Bible and I can make it say anything that I want it to say and I've got the doctrinal right to do it. That's not right. That's a lie."

6. Every Believer is to Be a Bridge Builder Between God and man

The Latin word for priest is pontifex which means bridge builder. One of the most important responsibility of a priest was to represent the people before God, so to today are we but in a different way.

Presenting Jesus Christ to people so they can understand how much Jesus loves them and the bridge that has been built by the cross of Christ, we are simply to be a the messenger.

7. Every Believer is Under the Authority of God's Word and Also Is to Follow Godly Leadership.

Doesn't give us the right to go off on our own, or to deny the authority God has given us the leadership of our church. It is designed really to be a check and balances if you will.

I am to lead, I do have authority as a pastor and our church leaders do but we are in many ways to earn that, not to demand it, I am to lead not to push – that's what a real shepherd does.

We are not follow corrupt leadership or those who are not walking step in step with God's Word.

Our Responsibility

- 1. We need to be praying to the Father daily (Accessing His throne)**
- 2. We need to be reading His Word daily (Accessing His instructions)**
- 3. We need to be connected to a church family (Accessing His fellowship)**

4. We need to be **ministering** to one another (Accessing His Ministry)
5. We need to be **building bridges to people** (Accessing His power)
6. We need to **follow** His authority and the **godly authority He has placed in our lives** (Accessing His authority)

1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you — 10 from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.” MESSAGE

All of these privileges carry with them an awesome and very important responsibility that even the people of Israel were to back in Old Testament times. **We Must Proclaim His Praises**

It means to show forth, to tell out, to advertise.

Are you and I living walking billboards for Jesus the declare to the world in big bright bold letters how excellent He is. How he has changed our lives? That He is everything to us and that He comes first in everything we do and say?

WHY?

- He called us from darkness to light [Colossians 1:13](#)
- We were not a people, but now we are the people of God
- We had not received mercy, but now we have receive mercy