

# *The Duties of the Priest Part 1*

## *Introduction and Principles in Building the Family*

*“9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)*

When we come to know Christ and we respond to God’s call, we become the chosen people of God. Through the blood of Jesus and His work on the cross, our sins are atoned after we come to Him in repentance. We receive eternal life and we become God’s children. God calls us His chosen people and He bestows on us the title of *“a royal priesthood”* to those who stand before Him, to minister to Him, and to serve His people. *The priest here in this series of messages is a Christian man commissioned by God to lead in the home and in the church.*

Initially, when people hear the Word *“priest”* mentioned, the first thought that comes to their mind is that this word only pertains to the religious leader like the priest or the pastor of a church. *But the fact is this: Everyone who is called by God and has accepted God’s call to live a life for God is a priest for the Lord.*

We, who follow the Lord Jesus Christ are the royal priesthood of God on earth. Royal priesthood means the priests of the King of kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lord Jesus Christ. *We are called the royal priests to proclaim to everyone in the world the Word of God, and to declare praises to God who called us from darkness or sinful life into the light and righteousness of God.*

How can we proclaim the praises of our God? We praise God not only by singing but by living our lives according to the Word of truth, the Bible. Singing and playing music without obedience to God’s Word is a worship directed to Satan and not to God. God has called us to be His royal priests, to be His true worshippers, and to lead others into true worship. True worship is to offer our lives fully to God, and to daily live the Word of God. *“12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1 KJV)* True worship is to apply the Word of God in our life, to practice and to follow God’s commands, and to impact the people around us with non-compromising message of God’s truth. To be a true worshipper means we must live a life pleasing and in obedience to God’s Word before singing or speaking God’s Word to others. Royal priests are the true worshippers whom God called to worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

To be the royal priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ is not only for a certain period of time or in certain places, but our whole lifetime and in all places where God allows us to live. Since the time we commit our life to the LORD we become priests for God wherever we are and for all the days of our life until the Lord will come and take us to Heaven.

While waiting for the return of our Most High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to accomplish our job descriptions as royal priests towards the three main faculties defined in the Scriptures:

**1. In our Families:** Our own family is our priority as royal priests. We have responsibilities towards our spouse and towards our children. We need to keep our commitment towards these few people who are our first degree family members. We need to serve them so as to effectively serve God. *“4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;” (1 Timothy 3:4 KJV)*

**2. In our Church:** We are the royal priests and we are the Church of God. We are accountable to attend our priestly duties and to do our responsibilities toward the Church that the Lord has placed us in. *“24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” (Colossians 1:24-29 KJV)*

**3. In the society around us:** We are the royal priests to declare praises to God. We are called to live Godly lives, to pray for the lost, to do our best to evangelize, and to win souls for Christ. Therefore, we must set a good example for others to see so they can see God through us. *“16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16 KJV)*

The priests are responsible to daily keep the lamps burning in the Tabernacle. We are God’s people, the royal priests who daily stand before God, to minister to Him and to His people in the manner that He has designed for us.

Now we will speak about principles in building the family: *“3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” (1 Corinthians 11:3 KJV)* God the Father is the head of Christ, God the Son. Christ is the head of the man, and the man is the head of the woman, his wife. The man is the priest to lead His wife; and both of them, the man and woman, are ordained as priests to work together in leading their family to worship God.

**A. The Man as a Priest:** Someone may say, ‘If I am a priest, then where is my assignment and in which church?’ The first appointment of a man as priest is to lead his family to God through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord. *“25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,” (Ephesians 5:25-26 KJV)* The man as the priest of the family should love and care for his family just as Christ loved and cared for His church. The man is the husband and the father who works and earns for the family, and to provide for his wife and children. In addition, he should function in his family as a pastor who cares and leads the church. He would be the pastor of his own home, and his family becomes a congregation of the Church of God. Thus he needs to be spiritually equipped to lead his wife and children in reading, learning, and living the Word of God, in daily prayer and family worship.

**B. The Man and Woman as Priests:** After a man and a woman are married they are royal priests for their own family. They are responsible to care for each other and raise their children in the ways of the Lord and in the fear and reverence of God. The man as priest in the family whom the Lord ordained is not alone, but the Lord has placed with him a suitable partner to help him in providing for the family and in leading the children to live in the ways of the Lord. For this reason we read: *“22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” (Ephesians 5:22-24 KJV)* While the man is doing his part to provide, care and lead the family, the wife should respect, listen and submit to her husband’s instructions so that they both can care and lead their children in the presence of the Lord. But if the husband is not doing his part for the family and he is disobedient to God’s Word and commands, then the point of submission of the wife to the husband is compromised. **Submission to God’s Words should be mutual between husband and wife. “21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:21 KJV)** Both husband and wife need to learn diligently from God’s Word their responsibilities toward each other and towards the family. God has placed them as priests over their family and children, so they need to do their part while they fully abide with God’s Word. *“33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.” (Ephesians 5:33 KJV)*

**C. The Role of the Church in Marriage:** The husband is the head of the family, and the wife is the suitable helper for the husband who leads the family to do God’s will and plan. Both of them are called to nurture and care for their children physically and spiritually because God desires for Godly children. *“15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.” (Malachi 2:15 KJV)*

\* Consequently, it is so important that the church should discern whom God is going to put together as husband and wife before approving any marriage. Pastors are called to officiate marriages and the church people are called to bless marriages that God has planned and prepared. However, if the marriage is only desired and planned by both the man and woman, and they are not ready to become the priests for the family, would it give glory to God? So the church and the pastor should not approve or bless such marriages or officiate them. \* A believer himself or herself cannot choose whom he likes or wishes to marry. Instead he or she should follow God’s will and accept God’s choice for him or her in order to fulfill God’s plan of building up Godly families. The church and pastors need to stand firm to abide with the Biblical teachings and examples on how to prepare and initiate marriages. *“4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4 KJV)*

\* A believer should only marry another believer. But that does not mean that the believer can marry whichever believer he or she likes. Clearly it is described in the Scriptures that God gives the suitable helper to the man when he is responsible, ready, and mature for marriage. Even if a believer wants to marry a believer, we as a church need to be sure that it is God’s will and not a mere fleshly desire. \* Certainly, God brings at the proper time the right partner to every single believer who delights to fulfill God’s plan and is living according to God’s Word. *“18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” (Genesis 2:18 KJV)*

Subsequent to the marriage of a couple, the primary responsibility of the Church is to teach and to train the husband and wife to be on what they need to do for their family and children. It is the responsibility of parents to care, train, and teach their children. Hence the church is to support parents, to equip and train them to become effective in disciplining and teaching their children to become a Godly offspring.

**C. The Family as School:** We should watch, pray and wait upon God to give priestly partners to the single believers in our church, that is, a man or woman who is able to bring up a family in worship and fear of God. It is a must that a man or woman who enters marriage is ready, and is able to raise children in a Godly manner. *“6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9 KJV)* Parents are responsible to teach their children at home the discipline and the statutes of God, the Bible. Their home is the school of their children. The parents are the priests and the teachers in the family, who are responsible to nurture the children to also become priests for God in the next generation. The husband and wife as priests in the family should impress on their children the Word of God. They should teach everyday by giving Godly advices and instructions as they get up in the morning or lie down at night, while they are inside or outside their homes. They should teach by demonstrating to them true-to-life examples of living according to God’s Word: *“8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.” (Deuteronomy 6:8 KJV)* \* Parents, who live God’s Word, become proper illustrations for their children to emulate. They are their children’s and youth’s pastors in their own family, the congregation of the Church of God. Parents are the teachers of their children for it is not the church’s responsibility to teach children and youth, instead the church should teach, equip, and train the parents who are the pastors and teachers of their own children and youth. \* Parents are to teach by encouraging their children to follow God’s commands that bring blessings, and by disciplining them with a rod when they disobey. Then God’s Word will be manifested in the life of every family member, and be acted upon by the parts of their bodies.

Likewise the priestly ministry is not only in the context of the house, but also outside. We take our children outside the house with us and show them things happening around, explaining to them about what is right and what is wrong. We have to tell them clearly what the Lord’s Word is agreeing with, and what they need to abstain from. Our children should learn Biblical principles in life from us because we are the royal priests who are rearing a royal priesthood.

**D. The Family as the Church:** Each and every Christian family represents a local congregation of the Church of God. Daily the family should gather together at a time suitable for every member of the family to read the Word of God, to sing to God, and to kneel down at the feet of Jesus in prayer. The family, as a local congregation of the church must also have a day of rest or Sabbath, a holy day and family day spent in the presence and joy of the Lord. *“9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy*

***manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: ” (Exodus 20:9-10 KJV)***

The Sabbath is a day for the whole family, the husband and wife and the children, to rest from their work, get enough sleep, have fun together, and go or join the church worship with other families or members of the Church of God. It is a day that as a family they can relax from all their work, meditate on and enjoy God's goodness to the family and His bounty upon all the family members.

Godly families should not get involved like other families in the world with celebrations such as birthdays, marriage anniversaries, Father Day, Mother Day, etc. Such celebrations are man and ego glorifying, and do not give glory to God. They are part of the idols that the world is keeping. Therefore, Godly families should not keep or observe such days or celebration. As God is doing great things for them, the family shall respond to God's goodness by keeping God's Word, living in holiness away from idols, and with willingness to continue to serve the Lord.

***E. The Church-Home-School:*** The husband and wife are responsible for the education and nurturing of their children to become royal priests for the next generation. Children's education and studies directed and supervised by the priests of the family that is the husband and wife, make a great difference in the heart and mind of every child. Our children's education should be based and embodied with God's Word. Each family as a local congregation should be responsible to handle children's and youth ministries for their own children. Nowadays, churches are full of children and youth activities which transform the young people's mind from the Word of God to the world of technology.

The responsibility to bring up Godly offspring lies in the hands of responsible parents or priests in the family. Thus, it is unsafe to entrust our children to be trained and educated by someone else. The Bible requires every parent to be good managers and administrators in their homes and families, to be efficient teachers and instructors to their children and school, and to be holy and royal priests for their family church. So the husband and wife need to do well as priests of the family, and they need to take as well an active part in the church. Yet the man is the priest to lead His wife; but both of them are ordained as priests to work together in leading their family as a church to worship God. ***“4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)” (1 Timothy 3:4-5 KJV)***

***My Dear and Beloved:*** Therefore, as royal priest, let us delight ourselves in what the LORD has called us to do for Him. Let us be responsible, and be a man or woman of courage who walks with Christ and serves Him faithfully. We are to lead our family in holiness and righteousness. This is our battlefield where we need to overcome. And God is with us and He will help us as long as we belong to the royal priesthood of Christ Jesus.

Let us pray ...

***My Prayer:*** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for this message that opened my mind and my eyes to your Word and to your will in my life and had shown me

clearly my responsibilities as a royal priest for you in my own family and the church that you had placed me in. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishment that you sent me in this message.

*Come now to God and confess your sins. Confess and renounce your non willingness and impatience to do your responsibility as a royal priest for your family and children, and teaching not your children and raise them up in the fear of God and the lack of family worship in your house and the reading of God's Word and prayer. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your yoke and wasting time with non believers and friends, and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship, your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and doing His will. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit my life into your hands to do the principles that I learned in this message and perform my responsibilities in full as a royal priest toward my family that you entrusted to me; toward my spouse and my children, to provide for them, to initiate daily worship, reading your Word, kneeling down and praying with them, and to school my children and train them and raise them in the fear of yours. Lord keep my job and my income stable so I can continue to serve you. Lord I ask you to give me patience, perseverance, wisdom to arrange my time, good health and strength so I can do all my responsibilities, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and who responded to the teaching of your Word in this message. Lord continue to teach them and guide them with your Holy Spirit to do their responsibilities in full to you. I pray that to provide all their needs, protect them and reward them by giving them Godly children who fear you, serve you and be the next royal priests, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

*Lord, bless us as your church. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to teach our families, children and disciples and train them to be the royal priesthood of God to have Godly families, to lead their families and children in the light of the Scripture, and to school their children and raise them in the fear of you. Lord we commit ourselves to teach and implement preparation for Godly marriages. Lord we ask you to sustain our church school to assist our members to home school their children, and provide us with suitable college so we can train our own children and disciples to be ready with professions that would glorify your name and meet the needs. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts and the suitable talents that we need in order to meet and fulfill such a need in the life of your church. Lord we pray for more of our disciples and children to be water baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord, lead us to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

The Duties of the Priest Part 1. Introduction and Principles in Building the Family. 1 Peter 2:9. Romans 12:1. Colossians 1:24-29. Matthew 5:16. 1 Corinthians 11:3. Ephesians 5:21-26, 33. Malachi 2:15. Hebrews 13:4. Genesis 2:18. Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Exodus 20:9-10. 1 Timothy 3:4-5.

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