

BAPTIZED NATION

A HOLY PRIESTHOOD: BAPTIZED VOCATION (1 PETER 2:4-5)

I. Core Vocation

What is the vocation that is most essential to who I am as a person made in God's image—the vocation that gives meaning to everything else I do?

II. A Brief Introduction to 1 Peter: Encouragement for Elect Exiles

III. We Come to Jesus Christ for Our Place in God's House (1 Peter 2:4)

- A. 1 Peter 2:4-5 is one long sentence, with the main idea in verse 5.
- B. But before verse 5, Peter talks about us coming to Christ.
—“As you come to him...”
- C. Only when we come to Christ Jesus can verse 5 be true of us.
—Again, holiness proceeds from union with Christ.
- D. Christ is described as...
 - 1. “A living stone”
 - 2. “rejected by men”
 - 3. “in the sight of God chosen and precious”

IV. We Are Being Built Up as a Spiritual House (1 Peter 2:5a)

- A. As we come to Jesus, we are being built up as a spiritual house.
- B. This shows that the vision of the Church as God's Final Temple was on the hearts of Christ's apostles (see also Eph 2:21-22; 2 Cor 6:16-18).

V. We Are Being Built “to Be a Holy Priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5b-c)

- A. We are being built as a spiritual house “to be a holy priesthood.”
 - 1. If you are a believer in Christ, you are a priest of God.
 - 2. Priesthood is our core vocation.
—It gives meaning to everything else that we do in life.
- B. What are we to do as a holy priesthood?
 - 1. According to Peter, “to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
 - 2. In the Old Testament, the priests offered Israel's sacrifices to YHWH.
 - 3. In the New Testament post-atonement priesthood, the priesthood has been transformed.
 - 4. The sacrifices are the lives and works of each Christian (Rom 12:1).
- C. Peter further defines the sacrifices in three ways:
 - 1. The sacrifices are “spiritual”—they are motivated by the Holy Spirit.

2. The sacrifices are to be “acceptable to God.”
 - a. The Christian life is lived unto God.
 - b. The Christian life is to be pleasing to God.
 3. The sacrifices are made acceptable “through Jesus Christ.”
- D. The whole Trinity is involved in our self-sacrifice to YHWH! Our sacrifices are the Trinity-marinated offerings given to God.
1. They are sacrifices motivated by the Holy Spirit.
 2. They are sacrifices mediated through Jesus Christ.
 3. They are sacrifices directed to God the Father.

VI. The Priesthood of All Believers

Because God has made us to his holy priests, you and I must see that priesthood is our most fundamental, non-negotiable vocation in life. Every Christian is a priest to God and is responsible for offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. The sacrifices we offer to the Lord are ultimately our whole lives. In light of that, we must recognize that priesthood embraces everything that we do in life. And we must allow God's Word to form our actions. And we must make our actions holy to God by prayer.

- A. We must relearn what our fundamental job in life is: We are the holy priests of God!
- B. We must recognize that priesthood is not limited to one activity (such as congregational worship), but it is the whole quality of human life.
 1. Priesthood encompasses everything we do in life: Our family time, our paid work, our leisure, etc.
 2. When you recognize that you are a priest, your questions in life change. Instead of having “How can I best secure my promotion?” or “How can I best please everyone” as our main questions, we ask: **“How can I best represent my God and my Lord Jesus Christ in this role/job?”**
- C. But to serve God as his priest, we must allow God's Word to shape our actions and then offer up our actions to God with prayer.
 1. To allow God's Word to shape our actions is to...
 - a. Let God give us reasons for doing various things.
 - b. Let God influence the way we do what we do.
 2. According to 1 Timothy 4:4-5, prayer is a means of sanctification. —By offering something up to God in prayer, we make that thing/activity holy to God.