

WEEKLY REFLECTION

We commonly assume that God's priesthood is reserved for those called to full-time or vocational ministry. Like the Levites before them, God must have set these people aside for a special calling. This couldn't be further from the truth: the call for all of God's people to be part of His holy priesthood has remained the same over the ages.

The heart of the priesthood is to create and maintain a space for people to encounter God. We see this in Genesis, where God called the first man and the first woman to rule over and subdue the earth, to have dominion over every living thing on it. (Gen. 1:28) We see this in the Israelites after they were brought out of Egypt, where they were asked to obey God and to keep His covenant. (Exod. 19:5-6) The apostle Peter tells us in the New Testament to put away all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander. No longer do we need to offer up animal sacrifices to God like the Levites did, since Christ's sacrifice did this once for all when He offered up Himself. (Heb. 7:27) But Peter tells us to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (1 Pet. 1:1-5), and the apostle Paul tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. (Rom. 12:1)

We might not associate the call to God's priesthood with the command to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:16-20), but the two are shockingly similar—in both, there is the command to observe everything Jesus taught us. We are to dedicate God's people to Him by baptizing them in the name of the triune God. Because we are people ransomed by Him, we are to live holy, set-apart lives, lives that are different from those around us.

Will you obey the command of the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations? Will you heed the included call to become part of God's priesthood?

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

If you had to rewrite your current job title to reflect the role you play both at your current workplace and in the Kingdom of God, what would it be?

E.g. instead of “Financial Analyst”, you’re the “Minister of Integrity & Peace in High-Stress Markets”; instead of “Junior Designer”, you’re the “Creator of Beauty in a Chaotic World.” Have a think about your spiritual and non-spiritual gifts and talents before doing so, and be as creative or as serious as you like!

QUESTION TWO:

Read through 1 Peter 2:1-12. What is a behavior from the passage that people around you participate in, that you find hardest to abstain from? How might your abstinence from that behavior create and maintain space for those around you to encounter God?

QUESTION THREE:

Think of a person or a group of people in your life who are going through difficulties without Jesus by their side. What is a specific and tangible way that you can create and maintain space for them to encounter God this week?

How can your life group remind you of God’s presence and authority with you when you set out to do so?