



# ROYAL PRIESTHOOD: OUR SHARED CALLING

THE CHURCH | WEEK 3  
DAVE D'ANGELO

## 1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

### YOU ALREADY ARE.

#### Biblical backing for priesthood of believers:

- Hebrews 4:14: Jesus is our great high priest.
- Isaiah 53:4-6: The Messiah's blood, no longer bulls, would bear our iniquity.
- Hebrews 9:11-12: Jesus' sacrificial offering of his life, was a final, for all sacrifice.
- Matthew 27:51: The temple veil was torn from top to bottom.
- James 5:16: We can confess our sins to each other.
- Revelation 5:10: Jesus' sacrifice made the church a kingdom and priests to God.

If you are in Christ, you already are a minister of God's presence with direct access to God through Jesus.

→ Just like the priests of the Old Testament, we can minister to one another, intercede on behalf of one another, and represent God to the world.

The church is not a vendor to an audience of consumers, but a people with a shared calling and identity. We don't gather to spectate but to serve. Ministry is no longer reserved for a few while the rest receive; all who belong to Christ share in His priestly work: ministering God's presence, interceding, and representing God in the world.

## STAY IN THE SADDLE.

*“(Sometimes)The world is like a drunken peasant. If you lift him into the saddle on one side, he will fall off on the other side.”*

- Martin Luther

**Without people or when disconnected from the body, a priest is just a spiritual lone ranger.**

→ Functioning from a place of spiritual independence leads to distrust and critical hearts toward the bride of Jesus.

### **Matthew 12:36-37**

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

**Criticizing:** speaking negatively to hurt

**Rebuking:** revealing truth to help and heal

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Critical words:

- spoken about someone more than to someone
- focus on faults, failures and frustrations.
- are motivated by irritation, pride or self-preservation.
- leave people smaller, defensive or ashamed.
- are more about being right than helping lead someone to what is right

*“The apostles labored to see (and to help us see) the church as she is in God’s sight: the family of God, the body of the Lord, the temple of the Spirit, the bride of Christ...The invisible God abides, of all places, in the visible community of the true church... If we could see the church as she really is, perhaps nine-tenths of our criticism would die.”*

- Scott Hubbard, managing editor of *Desiring God*

## SET THINGS IN MOTION.

*“A leader’s legacy isn’t defined by what they do, but by what they set into motion.”*

- Pastor Jeff Leake

- Consumers desire things from the church. **Ministers deliver them to the church.**
- Intercessors pray continually, live authentically, and **stand in the needs of others.**
- We live differently in the world because we have been **transformed by Christ.**

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “priest”?
2. Do you feel connected to the body of Christ or do you relate more to the spiritual lone ranger?
3. Is there an aspect of church that you approach as a consumer? What’s one way you could minister to the church instead?
4. Is there an area of your life where God is calling you to represent Him?

