

THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

(Part 17 – series on Baptist Distinctives)

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:5,9
Matthew 17:17-21

INTRODUCTION: The highest and noblest spiritual sacrifice that we can offer as New Testament priests is **intercessory prayer**. Yet this is probably the most neglected because Satan will attack prayer more than any other spiritual duty. He realizes more than most saints the tremendous authority that Christ has given us to exercise our “royal priesthood” that forces him to give up and retreat.

“This honour have all his saints,” but so few avail themselves fully of it because they are not willing to meet the stringent conditions God lays down in his Word. Holiness, faith, humility, boldness, and reverential fear are all required to lay hold of God’s highest willingness in prayer. If we only knew the triumphs in the spirit realm of priestly intercession, we would ask and receive more from God! Stubborn obstacles would be removed and unseen demonic powers would be overcome by our wrestlings. Who among us will wield this dynamic authority and “give themselves” to prayer?

OUTLINE: What kind of authority has been given to us to intercede for others?

- I. **The Meaning of New Testament Priesthood**
- II. **The Qualifications of a New Testament Priest**
(Leviticus 8)
- III. **The Responsibilities of a Believer-Priest**
 - A. To offer “spiritual sacrifices” (1 Pet. 2:5)
 - B. To boldly intercede (Heb. 4:14-16; 10:19-22)
 1. A **delegated** authority (Matt. 28:18,19; Isa. 45:11)
 2. A **discriminating** authority (given only to those qualified)
 - a. Holiness (Ex. 28:36-37, Lev. 8:13)
 - b. Faith (James 1:5-7)
 - c. Humility (1 Cor. 10:12)
 - d. Boldness (1 Jn. 5:14,15; Heb. 10:19-22)
 - e. Fear (Heb. 5:7)
 3. A **dynamic** authority
 - a. Removing obstacles (Matt. 17:20; Ex. 14:15; 2 Kgs. 2:8,14)
 - 1) Authority is not prayer (Ex. 14:15ff).

- 2) Failure in prayer indicates flaws (Josh. 7:10,11).
- b. Wrestling with unseen powers (Eph. 6:12; Mk. 9:29; 1 Thess. 5:17)
 - 1) Go for the head – not the coils! (Gen. 3:15)
 - 2) Combine fasting with prayer (Matt. 17:21; Lk. 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17).

IV. The Repudiation of Unscriptural Hierarchy

V. The Implications of New Testament Priesthood

CONCLUSION: As Baptists we can be sound, orthodox, and discerning in our understanding of the nature of the spiritual priesthood we have. Yet we may still live far below our privileges because we fail to wield the authority that Christ has delegated to us in intercession. We are seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6). All authority has been given to Him *“in heaven and in earth”* (Matt. 28:18). He is eager to share that authority with us if we will believe and submit. Is not the prize worth the price?