

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#37: “Holy and Royal Priests”

When a person trust in Jesus Christ, he or she becomes a holy and royal priest:

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

One of the fifty things that occurs at the point of salvation is that we become priests. Note in the first passage above that this gives us the privilege of being able to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. The ultimate sacrifice that we are commanded to offer up is ourselves, Romans 12:1, *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.* This requires that God be Transcendent over everything else in life. One will not offer up their whole lives with total commitment to God in every area of life unless God is viewed by that person as the Transcendent One, the All, the Complete, the Beyond beyond all beyond. While Romans 12:1 is often taught as *merely* rebound passage, a careful look at the passage indicates that it *includes* much more. Through the Word of God the believer is able to construct an altar in his soul (Heb. 13:10) whereby he can worship God and offer a variety of spiritual sacrifices like praise—expressions of love and appreciation for grace (Heb. 13:15), divine good—like helping those in need (13:16), and prayer (13:18.)

Not only are we a holy [permanently set apart to God] priests, we are also royal priests as noted in the second passage above. Back in the Old Testament God first chose the entire nation of Israel to be His priests. However, they sinned, and so God chose one tribe out of that nation. The priests came from this one tribe. Today there is no priesthood on earth which He recognizes—except one. Today every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is a priest. Israel had a priesthood; today the church is a priesthood. As priests we have the privilege of representing ourselves before the Lord. But what about the “royal”? We are all royal priests because we are all children of the King: we are royal because of our union with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Wow!

Not only that, Christ is the Royal *High* Priest. Not only do we have the marvelous privilege of being sons and daughters of the King, but the King as our High Priest makes intercession for us continuously: Hebrews 7:25, *Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.* We can always count on the fact that Jesus Christ prays for us. Others may or may not keep us in their prayers, but Jesus

always prays for us. No matter how we may have failed or sinned or how many times Satan accuses us, Jesus Christ is there to make intercession and answer every charge. What a deal!

There is an additional issue related to Christ and prayer that I would like to touch on. In John 17:9 we have Christ's prayer to the Father: *"I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine."* Some have taken this to mean that Jesus Christ did not pray for unbelievers. This is simply not true. Christ as the High Priest in John 17:9 is *focusing* on His disciples, not the world. However, Jesus did in fact pray for the world (Luke 23:34) and directs believers to pray for unbelievers as well (Luke 10:12; 1 Tim. 2:1; Rom. 10:1). In fact, it was Christ's prayers for those around the Cross, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do"* that provided the grace to keep them from being judged instantly by the Father, and this also includes the idea of unlimited atonement where sin is never the issue for the unbeliever. Christ paid for all sins—period!

An *ens* (substance) with a nature and accidens all given *esse* (act of existing) by *Esse* (Pure Act of Being),

Pastor Don