

P – (The) Priesthood of all believers

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, **1 Peter 2:5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **1 Peter 2:10** Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Priesthood of the believer: I / we don't need anyone to represent me / us to God!

What does this mean?

1. Individual / personal access to God

This is rich beyond words and everywhere taught!

- **Because of the cross**
- **Through Jesus Christ alone**
- **Since Christ is our high priest**

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple **was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;**

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have **access (προσβαλῆν)** by one Spirit unto the Father.

Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have **boldness (παρρησίαν)** and **access (προσβαλῆν)** with confidence by the faith of him.

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: **Romans 5:2** By whom also we have **access (προσβαλῆν)** by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Boldness: freedom of speech / all speech – can discuss any and all things

Access: freedom of approach + an introduction (We can come to God freely because we are known by the Son!)

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. **Hebrews 7:26** For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **Hebrews 7:27** Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, **but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.**

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. **Hebrews 10:2** For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. **Hebrews 10:3** But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. **Hebrews 10:4** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can **never** take away sins: **Hebrews 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; **Hebrews 10:13** From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **Hebrews 10:14** For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, **boldness (παρρησίαν)** to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

We, obviously, share this precious truth with other evangelical believers.

It is important to recognize this is **both** individual / personal and corporate: as an individual and as a group.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;
Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto **an holy temple (ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν κυρίῳ) in the Lord:**
Ephesians 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for **an habitation of God (κατοικητήριον τοῦ θεοῦ)** through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the **temple of the Holy Ghost (ναὸς τοῦ...ἁγίου πνεύματός)** which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **1 Corinthians 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God (ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε)**, and that **the Spirit of God dwelleth in you (τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν)?** **1 Corinthians 3:17** If any man defile **the temple of God (τὸν ναὸν τοῦ θεοῦ)**, him shall God destroy; for the **temple of God is holy, which temple (οἷτινές ἐστε ὑμεῖς) ye are.**
(The word temple is required in the last phrase to make sense in English)

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Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that **loved us**, and **washed us** from our sins in his own blood, **Revelation 1:6** And hath **made us** kings and **priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **Revelation 5:10** And hast made us unto our God kings and **priests**: and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **Revelation 20:5** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. **Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

2. Individual / personal **ability** from God

We don't need a priest, we are a priesthood

We don't have a priesthood, we are a priesthood

But what is the point of being a priest?

[Everything can and will mean both I and We – personally and corporately]

- **I can pray**
- **I can bring everything to the Lord!**
- **I can pray for others!!!**

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. **Hebrews 4:15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. **Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, **first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;** **1 Timothy 2:2** **For kings, and for all that are in authority; that** we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. **1 Timothy 2:3** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Ephesians 6:18 Praying **always** with **all** prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with **all** perseverance and supplication for **all** saints; **Ephesians 6:19** And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to

make known the mystery of the gospel, **Ephesians 6:20** For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; **Colossians 4:3** Withal praying also for us, **that** God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: **Colossians 4:4** That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

➤ **I can offer NT sacrifices to God**

➤ **I can bring praise to God & thanksgiving**

Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. **Hebrews 13:16** But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **1 Peter 2:10** Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

➤ **I can read and interpret the Scripture!**

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Acts 17:11 These were more noble (**ἤσαν εὐγενέστεροι**) than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night. **Psalms 1:3** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; His leaf also shall not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

➤ **I can bear witness to this great salvation!**

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, **even so** have I also sent them into the world.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them **again**, Peace be unto you: **as** my Father hath sent me, **even so** send I you.

Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, **that they had been with Jesus.**

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. **Acts 4:20** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

This precious truth theologically integrates with:

- **Individual soul liberty**
- **Autonomy of the local church → congregational rule**
- **Regenerate church membership**

3. Individual / personal accountability before God

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. **Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.**

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? **for** we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. **Romans 14:11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **every** knee shall bow to me, and **every** tongue shall confess to God. **Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.