



our lives as a result, in order for us to “Be Holy” (as expounded by Pastor Lionel last week) and to “Be Priests”.

1 Peter 2:4-5

*As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

As New Testament believers, everyone is a priest. We are each a living stone, built on the Cornerstone which is Christ, the anchor and foundation to our identity as priests.

What is the function of a priest? A priest is required to act as a mediator. He is one who represents God to his people and in return, represents God’s people back to God. He also acts as an ambassador, a chosen vehicle through whom God has chosen to serve His people and to represent Him.

### **Three Truths About The Royal Priesthood**

1 Peter 2:9-10

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

**1. We are a royal priesthood who serves the King (v 9)**

- God is also coming to judge evil at the second coming. This is an important end time truth that we all need to embrace – God will not tolerate injustice. God will remove evil because He loves us. We represent a righteous King.
- Do we serve the King of Kings and Lords of Lords, or are we following the prince of this world? Are we influenced by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, or do we desire to be salt and light of this world, influencing the culture around us with the values of the King?

**2. We are a redeemed people (v 10)**

- The context of verse 10 is found in the story of Hosea. Peter references Hosea 2:23. We were all once like Hosea’s wife who worshipped other gods and the world. We were all like sheep that has gone astray, becoming the enemies of God. But just like how Hosea’s wife was redeemed, we were redeemed.
- You may think that you are beyond hope, so broken that God wouldn’t want you, so messed up that God cannot straighten you, so dirty or sinful that you can’t be saved. However, He sacrificed His son to redeem us all. That is how valuable we are to Him. When you understand redemption, you understand your worth to God. God wants you to know this truth.

**3. We are called to reflect a Holy God (v 9)**

- The first trait of holiness is single-mindedness. This person has his eyes fixed *only* on God. God is so thoroughly pre-eminent to him that everything else is less important. He is holy, in the sense that he is dedicated.
- Secondly, he is at peace with himself. He is not struggling with anyone nor within himself. He is at rest. He does not get upset when everything around him starts crumbling. This is what holiness is.

- Thirdly, he is interested in people. He is outward thinking. He is not always thinking about himself – his likes, his concerns, his comfort. He is thinking about others and is genuinely concerned with their well-being.

### **How do we apply the Word of God?**

1. Restore order by building our lives on the Cornerstone.
  - Our identity and self-worth are given from above and realised through the Cross. They cannot be found in the world. Hold on to Jesus, our divine Anchor. Allow Him to define your purpose and give you direction. He will give you the assurance and peace to help you navigate the future.
2. As priests, develop a single-minded focus on God.
  - Learn to minister to God daily in worship, meditate on the Word and in prayer.
  - Real priests minister to the Lord every morning and evening. They present their sacrifices to God every day. They set out and partake of the showbread (which represents the Word of God), on the table. They light the lamps of the gold lampstand (representing God's light shining in this dark world). They are God's serious, dedicated and single-minded representatives.

When you do all these, you realise you walk with a profound confidence, a steadfastness that makes you not easily shaken. You will have wisdom that sets you apart from your colleagues. You will have authority over situations and love for your family. There will be a certain winsomeness that earns you favour from the people around you. This is the kind of priests that our Lord desires to represent Him.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. **We are a chosen people called to a royal priesthood to serve God and His people (1 Peter 2:9). What does it mean to be a priest? [10 mins]**
2. **How do you internalise your God-given identity and self-worth, and be at peace with yourself and everything around you? [15 mins]**
3. **The priests in the Bible minister to the Lord every morning and evening. They present their sacrifices to God, set out and partake of the showbread (which represents the Word of God), and they light the lamps of the gold lampstand (representing God's light shining in this dark world). How do we, as priests, minister to God daily?**

## WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

- 1. That we embrace our role as priests who serves a Holy God:**
  - Our identity and self-worth come from Jesus' redemption through the Cross. We are very valuable to God.
  - That we will minister to God daily and be more and more Christ-like each day to live holy lives to reflect our King.
- 2. Pray for Phase 2 of the Circuit Breaker:**
  - that God will protect each and every one of us from COVID-19.
  - that the community and dormitory cases will decrease till zero.
  - that all active cases in hospitals and community facilities will be cleared and declared virus-free.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting [www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp](http://www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp).



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;  
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."  
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

### Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

- 1. PayNow**  
Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.  
Scan this QR code on the right.
- 2. Interbank Transfer**  
RiverLife Church Bank Account:  
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0  
Bank Code: 7171  
Branch Code: 029

SCAN ME



### Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

### Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.