

A Royal Priesthood

I recall hearing the story of an old gospel preacher - his name slips my mind, but he was a short little man in height. The preacher wore a suit everyday of the week. When asked why he wore a suit every day, his response was, "Well, when your Father is the King, such is how one would expect you to dress." (The quote is perhaps not word for word, but is close. The idea behind his thinking is what we are considering.) You really have to respect his attitude and perspective on life. He realized that he was part of royalty, based upon his relationship with God made possible by God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Peter writes, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..." (1 Peter 2:9). Peter's inspired words help us understand our relationship with God as part of His church. When you consider the Old Law and the hierarchy of the priesthood that stood between the people and God, as Christians' such hierarchy no longer exists. Now, the relationship we enjoy no longer goes through men serving as priests. Rather, our relationship is to God through our perfect High Priest, Jesus, allowing us access to God that no mere man could provide (Hebrews 8:20-28).

Peter states, "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). Christians as living stones are the living temple of God and our lives should be a continual offering of service to God. This idea should drive each Christian to offer themselves to God through continual reformation (Romans 12:1-2). We should each see ourselves as children of the King and act, think, and live accordingly. Such is our responsibility and such is why we can appreciate the attitude of the little man in height preacher who wore a suit every day of the week, because he recognized himself as a child of God, The King. (The suggestion here is not that we must wear dress clothes every day, but that we should feel honored to be part of God's kingdom and live in such a way that recognizes who we are.)

Jesus made a royal relationship with God possible (Hebrews 8:1). Through Him then, let us offer ourselves up in continual sacrifice to God. "Therefore by Him let us

continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Hebrews 13:15). Let us never forget and thus always present ourselves in such a manner that others know our Father is The King.