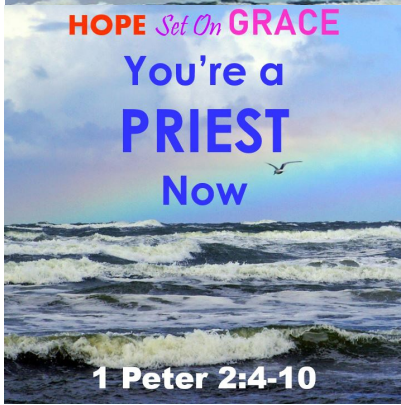




Lesson Seven Handout

**You're a
PRIEST
Now**

1 Peter 2:4-10

INTRODUCTION

I spent the first two years of high school in a boarding school. A prep school. In particular, in a seminary for boys planning to eventually become Catholic priests.

At St. Joseph Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, we lived on campus. Slept in dormitories, attended class, spent time studying in the study hall, and went to chapel.

We had prayer seven or eight times a day, including daily Mass, daily devotional time, and prayer before – and often after – every activity.

For me, the best prayer time was when I visited the chapel alone. I spent time praying, and considering how important it would be – and what a privilege it would be – to serve as a connection between people and God. I could not imagine a higher calling in life.

In 1 Peter 2, we read about being built up to be a “holy priesthood” (v.5), and about being a chosen race, a “royal priesthood” (v.9). Remember that Peter’s letter is written to the elect exiles in Asia Minor, not to a particular group or class of clergy or church leaders. It is from these passages, as well as from the overall message of Ephesians 4:1-16 and similar passages, that we can understand the doctrine known as the “priesthood of all believers.”

In today’s lesson, we take a look at what it means to be built up to be a “holy priesthood” and what it means to be “a chosen race, a royal priesthood.”

OUTLINE

1. Discussion:
 - a. From the Old Testament, what is a priest?
 - b. What is the significance of the priestly order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7)?
 - c. What is meant by the priesthood of all believers?
 - d. How are all believers priests?
2. Being built (v.5) into:
 - a. The house of God
 - i. Life as worship
 - ii. Life as holiness
 - b. A holy priesthood
 - i. Chosen, anointed
 - ii. Purified
 - iii. Called to pray
 - iv. Called to offer sacrifices

- (1) Surrender
 - (2) Prayer and praise
 - (3) Giving and doing good for others
 - (4) Evangelism
 - (5) Imitating Christ's love
 3. A royal priesthood (v. 9)
 - a. Traditional separate of roles and lineage
 - i. Priests from the lineage of Aaron, tribe of Levi
 - (1) Contrast: 1 Samuel 13:8-14 and 2 Chronicles 26:16-21
 - ii. Royalty from the lineage of David, tribe of Judah
 - b. Compare: New covenant merger of priesthood and royalty (Hebrews 7:17)
 - i. Rule (Romans 8:17); judge (1 Corinthians 6:2-3); authority (Matt. 16:18; 28:18); intercession (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
 4. A chosen people
 - a. Chosen to hope and inherit (Ephesians 5:18)
 - b. Chosen to understand Christ's love (Ephesians 3:17-19)
 - c. Chosen to receive mercy (Ephesians 2:1-5)
 - d. Chosen to live worshipful lives (Philippians 2:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
 - e. Chosen to sojourn (Matthew 6:31-32; 1 Timothy 6:6-8)
 - f. Chosen to be at war (Romans 7:15-23; Galatians 5:16-17)
 5. Next week: Chosen to Submit to Authorities (1 Peter 2:11-25)
 - a. Discussions on Cornerstone Connection
 - b. Facebook group discussions
 6. Conclusion: 1 Peter 2:4-6
- We need to hear from each other!