

Living as a Royal Priesthood

In conjunction with our Making Room effort, we are studying some of the central images the New Testament uses to describe the church (e.g. a family, a body, etc.). These images reveal our identity in Christ. They explain the type of people we are to be AND how we are to live. In this study we are looking at a third aspect of our identity, which stresses our exalted status before God. We are a royal priesthood! When we understand who we are as a royal priesthood, we understand that our lives hold amazing potential to bring pleasure to the heart of God and to represent Him in this world.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

1. What does this passage say about the church's identity?
2. How might the idea of being a holy (v. 5) and royal (v. 9) priesthood have sounded to a Jewish believer in the first century?
3. What is the significance of being called a holy priesthood (v. 5)? a royal priesthood (v. 9)?
4. As holy, royal priests we are to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (v. 5). Peter does not spell out what exactly these spiritual sacrifices might be. What kinds of things come to your mind that we can offer to God as spiritual sacrifices?

5. What does it mean to proclaim the excellencies of God (v. 9)? How can we do this?

Steve said:

If people listened to you this past week or month, what would they conclude about God? Would they conclude that you are enamored with God and His excellencies? Or would they conclude that you're pretty lukewarm about your heavenly Father?

6. How would you respond to these questions?

7. What helps you to be "enamored with God"?

8. What do you sense is the main thing that God is saying to you through this study?