



BIBLE STUDY STUDENT WORKSHEETS
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The Priesthood of All Believers

1. Under the Old Covenant in Israel, God had established a definite priesthood through the Levites, with the descendants of Aaron serving as High Priest. What were the duties and responsibilities of the priests?

Exodus 27:20-21

Leviticus 6:9-13

Exodus 29:38-45

Numbers 6:23-27

Deuteronomy 17:8-13

Deuteronomy 20:2

Malachi 2:6-7

How would you summarize these specific responsibilities?

2. Priests were to offer sacrifices and to mediate between God and man. According to the new covenant in Christ, Christ Himself is to be our High Priest and Mediator (I Timothy 2:5). One of the goals of the Reformation was to remove the idols, saints, and prayers to the Virgin so that Christ Himself would be the Mediator and the Priest between man and God. Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10, which talks about Christ as the High Priest. How should this truth affect the personal life of the Christian?

3. Since Christ as our High Priest allows us to draw near to God, Christians are actually a kingdom of priests or a royal priesthood (Rev. 1:6). What does this mean in our personal lives? According to I Peter 2:5, 9-10, what are we to do as a royal priesthood?

According to Revelation 5:10; 20:6, what does being a royal priesthood mean for the future?

4. One of the important functions of a priest is to offer sacrifices. I Peter 2:5 says our sacrifices are spiritual, no longer bloody bulls and goats! Read the following passages and discuss some of the spiritual sacrifices the believer is to make:

THE SACRIFICES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVER	
Bible Passage	What is offered to God?
Hebrews 13:15	
Romans 15:16	
Philippians 4:14-18	
Revelation 8:3	
Ephesians 5:2	
Hebrews 13:16	
Romans 12:1-2 [note this unique priesthood with living sacrifices!]	

5. Since every Christian is a priest, every individual Christian can approach God through Christ, without the intercession of priestly sacrifices such as those found in the Old Testament. Yet, the New Testament does speak of rulers or pastors who have positions of leadership in the church. Read the following Scriptures and list what the pastor's responsibilities are.

I Timothy 5:17

I Thessalonians 2:7-11

I Peter 5:1-3

Ephesians 4:11-12

Titus 1:7-9

Hebrews 13:17

How does a pastor's responsibilities and function compare with those of a priest (note similarities and/or differences)?

6. Though the priesthood of every believer had been an important doctrine in the early church, it had lain dormant for centuries until revitalized by the Reformation. It was to be a concept which would have far-reaching implications in society, as well as in the functioning of the church itself. Many historians recognize that the growth of democracy as an ideal as well as the value placed on universal education can be attributed to the working out of the idea of the priesthood of all believers. Explain how these democratic and educational goals could be related to the teaching that every believer is a priest.