

Royal Responsibility

Every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has two royal responsibilities while left in this Satanic world. One is private and the other is public. The private is our responsibility to God as Royal Priests. *"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."* also, *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* (1Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6). As a Priest, you are to *"offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship."* Rom 12:1. As a Priest you are to represent yourself to God. You do not need someone to mediate between you and God. *"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus..."* (Heb. 10:19). Since we represent ourselves to God, we have privacy. We do not confess our sins to a congregation or to another believer Priest, but directly to God the Father.

Our personal responsibility to God is to *"...be filled with the Spirit"* (Eph 5:18), and also to *"...grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* (2Pet 3:18). You *grow in grace* by taking in Bible doctrine on a consistent basis as taught by a believer priest with the gift of Pastor-Teacher. Our objective is to continue to grow *...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"* (Eph 4:13). If we neglect God's perfect system, we will not grow up, but will remain infants. Infants are *"...tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming."* (Eph 4:14). Infants translated here is NAPIOS in the Greek. NAPIOS does not necessarily refer to an infant, but someone who is childish, or a brat. We have all heard the saying "he's thirty going on three." BRETHOS in the Greek refers to a newborn infant on the mothers breast. Childish believers do not know doctrine and are therefore victims of the many traps in this world. Childish believers never grow up because of their neglect of doctrine, and God's system. They are willfully immature, living by emotion and human reason, and are ready to be deceived by whatever sounds good or seems right. They walk by sight, not by faith. They know nothing of the power of the Holy Spirit, and therefore accept the cheap substitutes of emotion and human power.

Understanding and accepting our personal responsibility as Priests is the first royal responsibility. Although it is not entirely covered here, it is of utmost importance. If we fail in our first responsibility, we will certainly be useless in the second.

We are Royal Ambassadors. "*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*" (2Cor.5:20). It is said in other ways as well: Workers together with God: 1Cor3:9; 2Cor 6:1. Living epistles: 2Cor 3:3. Servants of God: 2Cor 6:4. Ministers of the new covenant: 2Cor 3:6. As Royal Priests we represent ourselves to God; as Ambassadors we represent God to the human race. We are God's representatives here in the Devil's world. What is an Ambassador? An Ambassador is a diplomatic officer of the highest rank appointed and accredited as representative in residence by one government to another. As believers in Jesus Christ, those redeemed from the earth, this world is not our home, "*But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Phil 3:20). We are a heavenly people and we were left here in the devil's world to glorify God. We are His witnesses on the earth. We represent the government of God and the message we carry is called the gospel.

Looking further into the definition of Ambassador, I find that an "Ambassador extraordinary." The meaning is an Ambassador assigned to a specific mission. We have a specific mission in that we are a unique people who live in a unique time. It is fitting that we are called Ambassadors because we are the highest ranking believers of all time. Right now, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are positionally higher than even Angels! Our unique position is not because of anything we have done or any personal merit or accomplishments. All thanks to the extraordinary grace of God, baptizing every Church age believer into the body of Christ. We are in union with the celebrity of the universe! We have the privilege in sharing everything He has, His position, His suffering, His life, His destiny, His blessings, His glory. We are unique, we are a brand new spiritual creation. Before this age began at Pentecost, no human being had the blessings, assets, privileges and power and unique life which we possess. Our life is without precedent, never before revealed in human history. The Bible speaks of our life and the doctrines pertaining to it as a Mystery. See Rom 16:25; Eph 3:1-12; Col 1:25-29.

Not only are we to carry the gospel, but we are to orient to the time in which we live. The message of the gospel is the same in all ages, but the gospel is linked with the mystery, therefore our message is unique. Paul says "*Pray also for me, that when ever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I will declare it fearlessly as I should.*" (Eph 6:19, 20; see also Col 4:3). Paul was commissioned by God with this unique message. We are not only to preach the gospel, which is "*the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,*" but the mystery as well. Again from Paul, "*Now to him who is able to*

establish you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past. Of course the most important thing is that Jesus Christ is preached, else salvation cannot occur. But after salvation what then? The believer must learn to orient to this mystery age in which we find ourselves and which exist all those privileges and assets previously mentioned. A sad fact indeed is that the mystery doctrine (teaching), with all of its unique assets, has been silenced in many Churches. No doubt the enemy is hard at work in this area. I have gone to many Churches, never hearing anything about the mystery, much less the gospel. This is a tragedy, especially since Pastors are supposed to be "*stewards of the mysteries of God*" (1Cor 4:1). The gospel is of grace. But the gospel perpetuated is the gospel of works. "*...All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood Gods grace in all its truth.*" (Col 1:6).

Jesus Christ said that the way that leads to life was narrow, and only a few would find it, but why? Because there is only one way of salvation, and Jesus says "*I am the way, the truth and the light.*" Just because the name of Jesus is on someone's lips does not mean they are saved. Jesus said people honored Him with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him. You cannot come to God on your terms, but only God's terms of salvation by grace. God *will not* compromise His perfect standards. All around us people in this world are perishing, having rejected the true gospel and accepted a false gospel. Our responsibility as Priests and Ambassadors is given to us to glorify God. It is a tremendous privilege and blessing to be used by the infinite God our Creator in this ministry. "*Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not loose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*" (2Cor 4:1-4).

Please take some time to understand your Royal Responsibility before God as a believer in Christ. If you understand the message we are to bear, let us remember this exhortation: "*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*" (1Cor 15:58).

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