**KOINONIA
 UNDERSTANDING THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**

**MAINT TEXT:**

**1 PETER 2:4-5,9**

**4**As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious

**5**You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**9**But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**What is the Priesthood of all believers?**
It is the believe that we all have the same standing before God and that we have equal access to God, without going through anything or anyone except Jesus Christ our lord.

**The Priesthood of all Believers**
**A. The priesthood of all believers is not a new Concept. This was always what God intended.
Exodus 19:5-10**

**5**Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;

**6**And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

**7**So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him.

**8**All the people answered together and said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the Lord.

**9**And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.”

When Moses told the words of the people to the Lord

**10**The Lord said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments.

**Exodus20:18-21
18**Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off

**19**And said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”

**20**Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”

**21**The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

**B. Our priesthood as believers must be seen through the light of Jesus Christ.
Hebrews 6:20**
**20**Where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

i) The word forerunner is the Greek word **prodromos** .

It also means founder, one who goes before to do some service for another who is to follow.

ii) The Jewish high priest entered the Holiest Place by himself—a representative but not a leader.

ii) Jesus has entered the true sanctuary that He may give His people entrance also.

**C. If we are Priest, then what does it mean for us as New Testament believers?**

**1) The priesthood of all believers has 4 practical important distinctions in our lives.**
i) Direct access to God

ii) Believers offers spiritual sacrifices

iii) Believers have a ministry of reconciliation

iv) The prophetic ministry of all believers

**2) Direct Access to God.

i) Direct access to God is only through Jesus**

**Ephesians 2:18**

**18**For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

 **Ephesians 3:12**

**12**In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.
 **1 Timothy 2:5**5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

**Rom 5:10**

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

**Ephesians 2:15-16**
**15**by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

**16**and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

**ii)There is now no more Barrier between us and God if you are in Christ
Rom 8:35-39**

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 **3) QUESTION HOW ABOUT SIN:

i) Does sin separate us from God? Yes

ii) Does sin block our access to God? No

iii) Let’s look at the prodigal son
Luke 15:17-20
17**“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!

**18**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

**19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’

**20**And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

**iv) The barrier is in our mind

4) Drawing near with confidence
Hebrews 4:16**

**16**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 10:19-22**

**19**Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

**20**By the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

**21**And since we have a great priest over the house of God,

**22**Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

 **To be continued**