

Last week Ted shared a rundown on the foundation of being a priesthood of believers in 1 Peter 2:9 that allows us to participate in God's presence and in God's purposes in the unification between heaven and earth.

This week we get to see the history of when God expected us to live out this priesthood in Genesis 1:26-31! What is our purpose? We saw why we are a priesthood of believers last week, but what does that look like now? Well let's chat and find out!

- 1) The first overlying belief is that we are human beings created in God's image to reflect and represent Him on earth. The first way we do this is through a relationship with God. Do you have a testimony of when you were saved? Now do you have a testimony of recent history to share? What does worshipping God in everything we do, do to us? On the contrary, what happens when we worship idols in our lives? (See Daniel 4:28-37)
- 2) Relationships with other people is the second way we can reflect and represent God. Please read John 17:20-23. How do the relationships we have with others reflect and represent God to others? Who is Jesus speaking of having a relationship with to be able to represent God?
- 3) Relationship to the earth is the last point. With the earth being as politicized as it is, how do we reflect and represent God in our stewardship of the earth in a godly way? (Genesis 1:28-31, Isaiah 66:2)
- 4) There are 8 billion people estimated to be on earth. We can see how we have failed to reflect Jesus rightly, but in what ways ARE there reflections of God being shown by the world today? If you've ever read The Screwtape Letters it gives a glimpse into what Satan's plan is, and that is to ruin what God's plan of a heaven on earth. This confusion the world is in makes Jesus' life/death/resurrection so much more important.
- 5) So...what does our faith in Jesus allow us to be able to do? Jesus WAS and IS what we were intended to be like, and through our relationship with Jesus we can now properly reflect who God intended us to be. Read Genesis 1:28 and Matthew 28:18-20 and discuss how these verses jive together.

We are so thankful for the blood of Jesus, for His resurrection, and his covering of our sins allowing us to rightly show Jesus to this world through words and actions. We are thankful that the Holy Spirit now dwells in us to shine like a beacon of hope to this world. And we are thankful that God gives us His body of believers to live life with and show what love can look like to a dying confused world.