

During the WELCOME, I will lead the people into our ...

WEEKLY CATECHISMS

(Responsive Reading)

For the Month of March

Pastor

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

Congregation

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.

Pastor

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

Congregation

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Pastor

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

Congregation

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

FIVE SMOOTH STONES

“Smooth Stone Number Two: A Culturally Engaged and Influential Church”

(Exodus 19:1-6; I Peter 2:9; Hebrews 10:19-22)

Today, let's simply take a look at OUR ROLE AS PRIESTS IN THE HOUSE OF GOD! So point number one is ...

❖ **An Engaged and Effective Church is Every Believer Fulfilling Their Priestly Responsibility**

God's desire was for Israel to be:

“a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:1-6)

In the NT, through Christ, I Peter 2:9 says,

“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (I Peter 2:9)

What does it mean to be a priest? Being a priest involves two things.

- Opportunity
- Responsibility

▸ Priests Minister the Presence of God

As priests, how do we minister the presence of God today? First of all, it requires ...

- Self-Sacrifice and Self-Denial (*Tears the Veil of the Heart*)

The second thing it requires is that we ...

- Cultivate, Keep, Guard and Secure the Atmosphere (*Heart, Home and Church*)

▸ Priests Minister the Praise of God

- A Worship Community

- A Healthy Community Glorifies God

“Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

- A Healthy Community Worships God with a Genuine Spirit of Devotion

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe” (Acts 2:42–43)

- Devotion to Biblical Instruction with Personal Application

Consistent teaching from God's Word exalts the Lord and it helps us grow in several ways:

- ✓ It matures and stabilizes our faith in times of testing.
- ✓ It increases our ability to detect and confront error.
- ✓ It gives us wisdom.

Priests worship God by working for God! Therefore, a healthy church is a worshipping church revealed in the work of the church. It is ...

- A Working Fellowship

A healthy church worships God as a fellowship working to:

- Encourage One Another
- To Build One Another Up in Faith
- To Pray With and For One Another
- To Learn from One Another and Teach One Another
- To Set for One Another Examples to Follow
- Challenges to Take Up
- Urgent Tasks to Perform