

Jesus, Our High Priest

Living as a Royal Priesthood

Anchor Text

- **Hebrews 4: 14 - 16**
- **1 Peter 2:9**

Living as a Royal Priesthood

- Understanding the concept of royal priesthood - **1 Peter 1:1 (NIV)**
 - Strangers, Sojourners, Foreigners, Migrants etc
 - **1 Peter 2:12 (NLT)** - Even though they were “aliens and strangers” Peter encouraged them to “Keep their behaviour” excellent among the gentiles so that God can receive the glory.
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- God’s Initial promise to Israel - **Exodus 19:6 “ You shall be a Kingdom of Priest”**

Understanding the Identity: Royal Priesthood

A. **Chosen by God** -

- Your call is intentional and personal - Eph 1:15
- We are not random; we are chosen to reflect His glory - Eph 1:12-14
- Chosen to proclaim His praises - through your testimony - John 4:28-30, 39

Understanding the Identity: Royal Priesthood

B. Royalty in Christ

- Through Christ, are heirs of the Kingdom - **Romans 8:17**
- Royalty speaks of authority, inheritance, and dignity
- We carry the Character of the King - righteousness, justice and mercy - **John 8:1-11** (“**Go and Sin No more**” - **Jesus condemned the sin, not the sinner**)
- Shine in darkness - shift atmosphere for the kingdom.
- We are God’s ambassador, not tourist - **2 Corinthians 5:20**

Understanding the Identity: Royal Priesthood

C. Priestly Function -

- We stand in the gap - Interceding, worshipping, ministering - **Ez 22:30** - God is seeking for a man to stand in the gap for the land.
- We are called to offer spiritual sacrifices - first of yourself.
- Our lives should be altars of praise, purity and service unto the Lord and His people - **Romans 12:1**

Overcoming challenges of living your priesthood identity

A. **Identity Confusion** -

- Many struggle to believe they are truly chosen, royal or priestly.
- Held by past mistakes, low self-worth, or past abuse.
- Enemy often attacks identity first - **Gen 3: 2-6**
- **“If you forget who you are, you will forget what you’re capable of”**
- **Romans 12:2** - Regularly renew your mind with the word of God and surround yourself with affirming, faith-filled community.

Overcoming challenges of living your priesthood identity

B. Cultural Pressure

- Society often values fame, wealth and self-promotion over humility, service and holiness.
- Living as a royal priest means going against the tide sometimes - choosing purity over popularity, and purpose over comfort.
- **Hebrews 12: 2** - Stay anchored in God's word, let your values be shaped by the Kingdom, not the crowd.

Overcoming challenges of living your priesthood identity

C. Fear of Rejection or Judgement

- Sharing your faith or standing for truth can feel risky.
- Many hesitate to “Proclaim His Praise” because they fear being misunderstood or mocked
- Boldness grows when you focus on God’s approval over man’s - **Act 5:29**
“We should obey God rather than men”