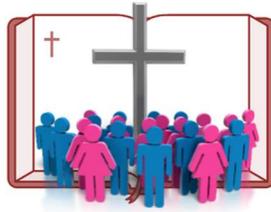


Being Baptist

"You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name."
Psalm 61:5



Lesson 4

"JESUS CHRIST: THE GREAT EQUALIZER" Priesthood of the Believer

LESSON AIM: To explain the New Testament teaching about the priesthood of each Christian as opposed to a professional clergy structure that minimizes or eliminates individual priesthood.

- **WELCOME & PRAYER / LESSON INTRODUCTION / THEME VERSE / LESSON AIM**
- **QUICK REVIEW: LESSONS 1-3**
- **PART 1: THE BAPTIST DOCTRINAL HALLMARKS (Continued)**
 - The Baptist Distinctives
 - B – Biblical Authority & The Lordship of Christ
 - A – Autonomy of the Local Church
 - P – Priesthood of Believers
 - T – Two Ordinances: Baptism & Communion
 - I – Individual Soul Liberty
 - S – Saved Church Membership
 - T – Two Offices: Pastors & Deacons
 - S – Separation of Church & State
- **THIRD DISTINCTIVE: "B" = PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER**
 - Meaning of Priesthood of Believers
 - Introductory Statement: From the moment a person believes on Jesus Christ for salvation, he becomes two things...
 - A Saint—washed in the cleansing blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sin
 - A Priest—able to go directly to God the Father through Jesus without need of any other intermediary (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:16)
 - Key Reference: 1 Peter 2:5, 9
 - Description: Every Christian has direct access to God through Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14), and the sole mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).

DEFINING TERMS: Sacerdotalism (sas-er-doht-liz-ulm): *“Religious belief emphasizing the powers of ordained priests as essential mediators between God and humankind; the belief that ordained priests are endowed with sacramental and sacrificial powers.”*

- What the Priesthood of Believers Signifies & What It Does Not Signify
 - What It Does Not Mean: A Christian can believe whatever he chooses
 - What It Does Mean: A Christian can go directly to God for prayer, forgiveness, and direction without the need of another human mediator (e.g., priest, pastor, rabbi, etc.)
- The Explanation of the New Testament Teaching (Mt. 27:51; Rev. 1:5-6)
 - With Christ’s sacrifice the Old Testament priesthood was over
 - The Holy of Holies was opened to all believers through the blood of Christ
 - Jesus is now the Christian’s High Priest and all Christians are individual priests under Him
- The Application of the New Testament Teaching
 - Direct Access to God (Heb. 4:16)
 - Equality in Christ (Gal. 3:28)
 - Offering Spiritual Sacrifices to God (Rom. 12:1)
 - *Self-Consecration*
 - *Complete Obedience*
 - *Praise*
 - *Prayer*
 - *Possessions*
 - *Ministerial and Missionary Support*
 - *Family Life*
 - *Work*
 - *Death*
 - Representing God to Man & Man to God (1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Tim. 2:1)

QUOTABLE QUOTE: *“The priesthood of all believers has far-reaching consequences for every Baptist. It means that none of us can be a spectator who sits back while others carry on the work of the church. Nor should any of us be willing to forfeit our responsibilities as ministers and expect the pastor[s] to fulfill them for us”* (Jeffery D. Jones, *We Are Baptists*, 2007).

➤ Closing Challenge: *Are you fully functioning as a New Testament priest of God?*

● **SUMMATION / PREVIEW OF LESSON 5 / QUESTION & ANSWER TIME / BENEDICTION**