

## Holiness Restored

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God promised One who would defeat evil and intervene to restore our calling as a royal priesthood.

...he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15

**Jesus is not like any of the priests that have come before...**

This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. <sup>23</sup>The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, <sup>24</sup>but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

<sup>25</sup>Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup>For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup>He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. Hebrews 7:22-28 ESV

- Jesus is our perfect Priest because He lives forever.
- Jesus is our perfect Priest because He is perfect.
- Jesus is our perfect Priest because He makes a perfect sacrifice for sin.

**Why does it matter? Shame.**

- You can't be free of shame unless Jesus is the perfect Priest.

**Why did God do that? God gave us a perfect Priest...**

- So that we, as sinful people, can have access to confidently approach a holy God. (Hebrews 10:19-22)
- So that we, as a kingdom of priests, can give God to the world. (1 Pet 2:9)

**Let's Connect**

- Do you remember the first time you felt shame?

**Let's Talk About It**

God created us to be like Him and reflect His love and goodness to the world. But our sin affected our ability to relate to a holy God and live the life He created us to live. Since the first sin in the garden, God had a plan to restore creation. He promised to send a Savior, a King, a Priest who would crush the head of the enemy. Jesus is our perfect High Priest who restores our relationship with God. He is eternal and unstained by sin, which makes Him the perfect sacrifice for sin. He did this so we can confidently approach God without shame and so we can give God to the world.

Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 7:22-28; Hebrews 10:3-4, 19-22; 1 Peter 2:9; Exodus 19:6; Jeremiah 31:33

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Hebrews 7:22-28. What makes Jesus God's perfect Priest? How is He better than other priests and sacrifices? If you put your faith and hope in Jesus, do you need anything or anyone else to justify you before God?
- How have you experienced the *one-two punch* of temptation and shame? How does having a perfect Priest help you when you sin, stumble, or fall? How is it true that "you can't be free of shame unless Jesus is the perfect Priest"?
- Read Hebrews 10:19-22. Nobody can draw near to God for you. How does knowing God gave you Jesus as a perfect Priest give you the confidence to approach our holy God at any time?
- Read 1 Peter 2:9. Do you see yourself as part of God's royal priesthood? Why or why not? How does knowing that you're part of God's royal priesthood fire you up to share your faith with others and give God to the world?

**Take a Step**

- Register on the app to take the Purple Book challenge, starting February 18!
- What step can you take this week to participate in the "priesthood" work for all believers?

**Here's My Prayer**

God, thank You for giving Jesus as the fulfillment of Your promise to send One who would defeat evil. I'm grateful that You gave Him as our perfect Priest who intervenes to restore us to You and to our calling as a royal priesthood. Strengthen me by Your Spirit to approach You boldly knowing how great Your love is that You would send Jesus as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. I pray for fresh courage to give God to the world and share Jesus with those around me. In Jesus' name, amen.