

# SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

## A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER

### THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

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#### 1 Peter 2:1-8

<sup>1</sup> So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

#### SUMMARY

Edmund Clowney wrote, “The church is found where the saints are found, and where they are fulfilling their calling from Christ.” (The Church. p. 114) On Sunday’s it’s common to say, “We are going to ‘church.’” But where is the church on Monday or any other day? All believers share in a high and holy calling as priests to God. Not feeling very priestly? Let’s dive into 1 Peter 2:1-8 to explore this special calling for all who are in Christ.

## PASSAGE PRINCIPLE

All believers in Christ are Priests to God.

## AS GOD'S PRIESTS

- Throw Off Undermining Sin.
- Feed Your Soul with God's Word.
- Step into Your Priestly Service.

### **Grudem, W. A. 1 Peter: an introduction and commentary. Vol. 17, p. 107.**

This verse thus gives explicit statement to the doctrine of the 'priesthood of believers'. Since all who come to Christ are now a holy priesthood, able continually to 'draw near' to God's very presence and offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ, there can no longer be an elite priesthood with claims of special access to God, or special privileges in worship or in fellowship with God.

### **Hebrews 13:15-16**

Through [Jesus], then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### **Romans 12:1-2**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

## YOU'RE STEPPING INTO YOUR PRIESTLY SERVICE WHEN...

- You devote your work "to the Lord."
- You do the work you're given to do.
- You intercede for those around you.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was a memorable road trip you've experienced?
2. Review 1 Peter 1:22-25. What is the type of love that should be found among believers?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:1-3. The meaning of "put away" is not "set aside for later use." What is at risk if we do not decisively throw these sins out of our church relationships?
4. How would you evaluate your current "longing" for spiritual growth and maturity?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:4-8. What essential doctrines are represented in these verses? (think about Jesus, the Church, the world, etc...)
6. What are biblical examples of spiritual and unspiritual sacrifices made by God's people?
7. How would parents explain the concept of the "priesthood of all believers" to a 10-year-old child?
8. What "dots" are you connecting with becoming more priestly in your current vocation/situation?
9. What grabbed your attention most from the sermon or passage this week?

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