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GRACE**

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Male and Female Christians

are

Priests

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Male and Female Christians are Priests.

Some dogmatically state that women cannot be priests, but not everything is as black and white as some might like it to be, for though it is true in some contexts, it is not true in all contexts, for certain concepts set in different contexts carry different ideas. Consider the following verses:

- **1 Peter 2:5:** 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.

The words, "You yourselves," embrace both brothers and sisters in Christ.

- **1 Peter 2:9:** You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

The words, "You are a chosen race," embrace both brothers and sisters in Christ. In both these verses, the apostle Peter refers to all believers (males and females) as a royal priesthood. It is true, the Old Testament priesthood was strictly limited to men only, and they were not self-appointed, but chosen by God to serve Him with their lives, by offering up sacrifices, their priesthood signified the coming ministry of Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Once Jesus sacrifice on the cross was completed the Old Testament priesthood was abolished, signifying this truth, was the thick temple veil that covered the entrance into the Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom by God at the time of Christ's death, signifying this truth.

- **Matthew 27:51:** And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Now all those in Christ can come directly into God's presence through their great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

- **Hebrews 4:14–16:** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Today no Christian needs an earthly priest to mediate on their behalf before God as they did in the Old Testament, for today, there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

- **1 Timothy 2:5:** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Old Testament priests offered literal sacrifices in the temple, in contrast to this the following verses makes it clear, that God has chosen all (male and female) Christians to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **1 Peter 2:5-9:** 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. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

As in the Old Testament God chose men for the priesthood, today He is choosing all brothers and sisters in Christ for the priesthood. Following are two aspects of the priesthood of all believers today:

- All believers (males and females) are privileged, to be chosen by God to be priests, for according to the apostle Peter, all in Christ are His own special people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, called to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9-10).

During the Old Testament era only, the high priest could go behind the thick veil and into the Holy of Holies, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement when he made a sin offering on behalf of all the people. In contrast to this, today, because of Jesus' death and resurrection upon the cross of Calvary, all believers (males and females) now have direct access to the throne of God through Jesus Christ our great High Priest.

- **Hebrews 4:14–16:** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This is the enormous beauty of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, that the apostle Paul, and others proclaim, all in Christ have the great privilege of directly entering the Most Holy Place and accessing the very throne of God, and this great privilege is not limited to once a year, but remains open to all the faithful 24/7 and they do not need an earthly priest.

1. The purpose of a believer's priesthood (males and females) is that all in Christ are chosen to continually offer up sacrifices of praise to God and acknowledge His name, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- **Hebrews 13:15–16:** Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

All (males and females) in Christ are like living stones being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **1 Peter 2:5:** 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.

IN SUMMARY: all believers (males and females) are called priests and a royal priesthood for the following two reasons:

1. As adopted sons and daughters of God, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they have a privileged closeness with God, and are heirs to God's Kingdom to be established on earth when Jesus returns in glory, and as sons and daughters of God, they have no need for an earthly mediator, for they like the Old Testament priest can go directly before God.

2. All believers (males and females) are called by God to serve Him by offering up spiritual sacrifices, (i.e., being a people zealous for good works), and as priests of the living God, we are all to give praise to our heavenly Father who has given us the great gift of His Son's sacrifice on our behalf, and in doing so, made us (males and females) priests to his God and heavenly Father.

- **Revelation 1:5-6:** and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

There is no doubt most faithful Christians feel uncomfortable with the term "priest," because we associate it with Catholicism or high church Protestantism. However, all in Christ are priests, in the sense that a priest is an intercessor who approaches God on behalf of others, which means whenever a Christian (male or female) prays for others they are fulfilling a priestly function.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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