

## “THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER” (1Pet. 2:5, 9)

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**INTRO:** “*The Priesthood of the Believer*” is the truth that all Christians have direct access to God through Jesus Christ and do not need a human mediator like a priest to intercede for them (1Tim. 2:5).

**ALL BELIEVERS ARE PART OF A HOLY, ROYAL PRIESTHOOD (1Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:5-6)!**

1. We represent God to people (service, ministry).
2. We represent people to God (not as a mediator, but as an intercessor).

**I. YOU WERE CREATED TO SERVE (Eph. 2:10)!**

- A. You are God’s workmanship, poem, masterpiece!
- B. You were created for good works!

**II. YOU WERE GIFTED TO SERVE (1Pet. 4:10-11)!**

- A. Each one has received a gift (abilities from God).
- B. Our gifts aren’t for us but for others.
- C. Because our gifts come by God’s grace, when we use our gifts we steward/manifest God’s grace to others!
- D. God is glorified when we use our gifts to serve.
- E. Each one has a unique function (Rom. 12:4-6).

•**Avoid attitudes of inferiority & superiority (1Cor. 12:12-27)!**

•**You need the body and the body needs you!**

•**We’re to identify with other members in both suffering and rejoicing (1Cor. 12:26)!**

**III. YOU ARE CALLED TO BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE (Eph. 4:11-12)!**

- A. These gifts help bring the church to maturity and to equip for ministry (serving).
- B. These 5 functional gifts don’t exist to do most of the ministry but to equip the saints for ministry (coach).
- C. Gifts don’t come fully mature/developed!

**IV. WHEN EVERYONE DOES THEIR SHARE, THE CHURCH GROWS IN MATURITY AND LOVE (Eph. 4:16)!**

**V. DISCOVERING YOUR S.H.A.P.E. TO SERVE!** God has “shaped” you to best fit in a certain type of ministry.

**S** – **Spiritual Gifts.** What gifts has God given you?

**H** – **Heart.** What do you have a heart or passion for?

**A** – **Ability.** What are you good at?

**P** – **Personality.** What is your personality type?

**E** – **Experience.** God can use your past (2Cor. 1:3-4)!

**WAYS TO DISCOVER YOUR S.H.A.P.E.**

1. A word from God (personal, prophetic).
2. Encouragement from others.
3. Serve where there’s a need.
4. Experiment.
5. Personality/Spiritual Gift inventories.

**SERVE WITH EXCELLENCE (Ecc. 9:10)!**

•**Discover, Develop & Deploy your gifts!**

Show up on time. Be prepared. Serve enthusiastically. Do it for the glory of God, motivated by love (Gal. 5:13; Eph. 6:7-8).

•**WALK WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING (Eph. 4:1-3, 7)!**

•**THE “THREE C’S” OF EFFECTIVE SERVING:**

1. **C**haracter – maximizing your Integrity.
2. **C**ompetency – maximizing your Abilities.
3. **C**hemistry – maximizing your Relational Skills.

**CONCLUSION:** You are part of a holy, royal priesthood! You were created and gifted to serve! The body needs you and you need the body! When we all do our part, the church grows in health and love (Eph. 4:16)!