

In order to do your job [as church members], you must know the gospel. You must study the gospel. You must protect the gospel's ministry in your church. And you must work for the gospel's progress in the lives of your fellow church members and with outsiders. To put it another way, you must watch over your church, keeping it consecrated to God, just like Adam was to watch over the garden and Israel's priests were to watch over the temple, keeping them consecrated to God.^{iv}

Ephesians 6:10–18

¹⁰ Finally, **be strong** in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ **Put on** the whole armor of God, that you (Pl.) may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over **this present darkness** (Cf. Is. 5:20–24), against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore **take up** the whole armor of God, that **you may be able to withstand** in the evil day, and **having done** all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ **Stand** therefore, **having fastened** on the belt of **truth**, and **having put on** the breastplate of **righteousness**,¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, **having put on** the readiness given by **the gospel of peace**.¹⁶ In all circumstances **take up** the shield of **faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;¹⁷ and **take** the helmet of **salvation**, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**,¹⁸ **praying** at all times **in the Spirit**, with all **prayer** and **supplication**. To that end **keep alert** with all perseverance, **making supplication for all the saints**...

Notice What Your Job is Not...

Three Basic Responsibilities of a Priest-King

1. **We Must Know/Teach the Gospel**
2. **We Must Pray for the Work of the Spirit**
3. **We Must Know/Love People with the Gospel**

Discipling...

Hospitality...

ⁱ Leeman, Jonathan (2015-12-17). Understanding the Congregation's Authority (Kindle Locations 196-199; 205). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (Kindle Locations 348-358).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. (Kindle Locations 447-450).

^{iv} Ibid. (Kindle Locations 138-141). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Our Christian Identity: 1 Peter

[#6] *Our God Given Job: Priest-Kings* – 1 Peter 2:9-10

Sermon Outline – July 10, 2016

Children's Sermon: Let there be Light!

- ❖ What kinds of things do you like to make?
- ❖ When God creates, he can make something out of nothing!

Genesis 1:1–3

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ **And God said**, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

2 Corinthians 4:6

⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give **the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**.

- ❖ What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?

What is Elder-Led Congregationalism?

Notes:

If you believe in the gospel, you will bind your life to other Christians. You will exercise a **priestly** care for the holiness of your fellow members. You will promote the gospel witness of your church in your community. And you will train to do this work by submitting your discipleship to fatherly guides, or shepherds. This isn't just the work of Sunday. This is a job that lasts all week.

...elder-led congregationalism is Jesus giving you a pastor to train you for the work of ministry. (Bold Mine)ⁱ

Is it Biblical?

If I had 40 seconds with you on an elevator, and you asked me where congregationalism is in the Bible, I would say something like this:

Well, in Matthew 18:15– 20, Jesus gives the local church final authority in a case of church discipline. Paul does the same in 1 Corinthians 5. He does not tell the leaders to remove the unrepentant adulterer from the church. He tells the church to do it. Then in Galatians 1:6–9, Paul treats the Galatian churches as capable of removing even him— an apostle!— if he teaches a wrong gospel. And in 2 Corinthians 2:6, Paul refers to a case of church discipline having been decided by a

"majority." And all of this, I would say, argues that the gathered congregation possesses final authority over the who and the what of the gospel.

I assume I could say that on an elevator, at least if the ride was longer than a couple of floors.

But suppose you knew something about Presbyterian or Anglican polity. You just might step off the elevator, turn back toward me, and say in the time it takes the elevator door to close, "But what about Hebrews 13:17: 'Obey your leaders and submit to them'?" ⁱⁱ

What Does All This Have to Do with 1 Peter 2:9-10?

- ✓ Calling us a royal priesthood (or priest-kings) is assigning us a job description.
- ✓ Being a member of a local church is how we obediently embrace the "priest-kings" job God has given us.

Today's Biblical Bullet...

Whose job is it to protect and expand God's temple/kingdom? It is the job of every Christian.

What are Priest-Kings?

Connecting 1 Peter 2:9-10 to its Context

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone...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. ...

(We are precious to God... Mankind/Jews stumble over Jesus)

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.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

OT Background

Exodus 19:5–6

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests (royal priesthood) and a holy nation. ..."

Isaiah 43:19–21

¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,²¹ the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

Hosea 1:8–2:1 (Not my people...; No Mercy...)

Putting it All Together

- ❖ Israel had been Chosen/Set Apart to Reveal the Truth and Glory of God...
 - **Priests** were appointed to Serve God's Temple
 - Draw near to God...Offerings (Review)
 - Protect God's holy Temple (Clean & Unclean)
 - **Kings** were appointed to Serve God's Kingdom
 - Protect: (Enemies within & without)
 - Expand: (God's kingdom rule)
- ❖ Jesus is True Israel...The Perfect **Priest-King**
- ❖ Christians are United to Jesus
 - We are God's Temple
 - We are Holy Priests
 - We are a People of **Priest-Kings**

What Do New Covenant Priest-Kings Do?

...Fired at our Life & Heart

We protect and expand God's temple/kingdom by working with and watching over the what and the who of the gospel.

Christians, the priest-kings of the New Testament, must work and watch over something, too. What? The church, the temple of the New Testament (1 Cor. 3:16; cf. 6:19; 1 Pet. 2:4–8). God specially dwells there, among them, just like he dwelled in Adam's garden and Israel's temple: "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). ⁱⁱⁱ

How Do We Do Our Job?

- The What is the Content of the Gospel Message
- The Who is the Local Church