**The Priesthood of all Believers**

“*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.*” (1 Peter 2:5, ESV)

“*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*” (1 Timothy 2:5, ESV)

A study of the New Testament reveals that \_\_\_ Christians are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. All have the right to go \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God through Jesus Christ, our High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16).

A sacrificing priesthood of men was appointed under the law of Moses, but the animal sacrifices offered by those priests were mere \_\_\_\_\_ and shadows of the one sacrifice made by Christ.

By the one sacrifice made by Jesus, He put an \_\_\_\_ both to the Levitical priesthood and the Old Testament law. (See Heb. 7:23-25; Col. 2:14-17).

Jesus is now at the right hand of God and ever lives to make intercession for His people (Heb. 7:25; 9:24). Through the one sacrifice of Himself, He became the \_\_\_\_ mediator through which men have access to God (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:26-27; 9:24-28; Eph. 2:18). He is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9).

**Reference: Difference Levitical Jesus**

**7:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ many priests only one priest**

**7:23-24; 9:12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ temporary permanent/eternal**

**7:27; 9:12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sacrificed daily sacrificed once for all**

**7:26-27 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sinful sinners holy, innocent**

**Unstained**

**7:26-27 \_\_\_\_\_ offered sacrifices offered sacrifices**

**Also for themselves only for others**

**7:27; 9:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ offered sacrificial offered up Himself**

**Animals**

**9:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ entered a man-made entered a greater**

**Tent and more perfect tent**

**9: 11-12 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ entered by means of entered by means**

**The blood of goats of His own blood and calves**

ONLY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS OUR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND OUR HIGH \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

But it is also true that \_\_\_ Christians are of that royal priesthood of God, and have but one great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Martin Luther wrote “this word priest should become as common as the word Christian because all Christians are priests.”

So in practice, everyday life, what are the implications?

**First, we have the privilege of \_\_\_\_\_\_ access to God**.

When we fail to utilize this privilege, the consequence is spiritual decline.

**Second, we have the privilege of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

We are still to offer sacrifices. These are no longer offerings of bulls and goats but sacrifices such as prayer, praise, thanksgiving, repentance, justice, kindness, and love.

In Romans 12:1, we are to offer our lives as “living sacrifices,” and in Philippians 2:17, “a sacrificial offering of faith.” Philippians 4:18 says the “services of love as a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.”

**Third, we have the responsibility of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ role**.

As a royal priesthood, one of our responsibilities is to “declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

**Fourth, we have the responsibility to be \_\_\_\_\_\_ of reconciliation.**

We must mediate Christ’s love into a dark and troubled world. Just as priests are agents of reconciliation to God and others, so are we to be such mediators.