

# You're Being Called to be a Royal Priest

Message 3 of 5 in the series "You're in the Story"

## 1. God's desire has always been to create a people of his own who would love Him and serve as his royal priests.

"...you are a chosen people. You are **royal priests**, a holy nation, God's very own possession."

1 Peter 2:9a (NLT)

"...you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation." Exodus 19:6a (NLT)

### a. God gives us a new identity when he adopts us into His **royal** family.

"Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." 1 Peter 2:10 (NLT)

*Note:* We become members of God's royal family through adoption. "Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We are no longer orphans; we are children of the King. "...you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children... And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory." Romans 8:15b, 17a (NLT)

### b. God gives us a new purpose when He calls us to be His **priests**.

"As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9b (NLT)

*Note:* God equips and empowers us to be His priests. "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

### c. God gives us a new perspective on our time in this world.

"Dear friends, I warn you as 'temporary residents and foreigners' to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world." 1 Peter 2:11-12 (NLT)

## 2. We need to get in the game.

"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

"...Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT)

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### Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Peter 2:9. How does it make you feel to be called a “royal priest”?
2. Discuss the two lists below. Why do you think many Christians can identify with the characteristics of a spiritual orphan more than the characteristics of a royal priest?

#### **Spiritual Orphan**

Unloved  
Rejected / Insecure  
Self-reliant / Confused / Weak  
Anxious / Fearful  
Focused on self  
Identity in appearances,  
accomplishments, possessions

#### **Royal Priest**

Deeply loved  
Chosen / Accepted  
Guided / Gifted / Empowered  
Secure / Confident / Peaceful  
Looking for opportunities to serve others  
Identity in relationships with God and others

3. Read Romans 12:6-8. How has God gifted you to serve Him? How do you know?
4. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Why do you think Centerpoint is organized so that it requires hundreds of volunteers for our ministries to function at full capacity? Why don't we just hire more staff? (see Ephesians 4:11-13)
5. Where are you serving at Centerpoint? Where are you using your God-given talents and abilities to serve God at home? ...at work/school? ...in the community? (see 1 Peter 2:10-12)
6. Discuss the following quotations:  
“When someone does not feel well, we quickly think, 'Where can we find a doctor?' When someone is confused, we easily advise him to go to a counselor. And when someone is dying, we quickly call a priest. Even when someone wants to pray, we wonder if there is a minister around.” Henri J.M. Nouwen  
“Let everyone, therefore, who knows himself to be a Christian be assured of this, that we are all equally priests.” Martin Luther  
“I believe a very large majority of church-goers are merely unthinking, slumbering worshipers of an unknown God.” Charles H. Spurgeon
7. Spend a few minutes as a group praying about Jesus' instructions to His disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” Luke 10:2 (NLT)