

Loving the City: Living as Priests

1 Peter 2:4-12



God makes His people priests to bless the world.

- **Our Identity as Priests**
- **What Priests Do**
- **A Key to the Job**
- **Why We Do It**

Our Identity as Priests

- If you're a Christian, God has given you a new home
- Because Jesus was rejected by men, His followers should expect to face rejection
- God has given His followers a job: be priests
- Priests - mediators between God and humanity
- The church is meant to connect the people around us with God

1 Peter 2:4-12

What Priests Do

- Offer Spiritual Sacrifices
 1. Abstain from the passions of the flesh
 - Say no to the “fleshly” desires in you that oppose God
 2. Live honorably in the world
 - Requires interacting with non-Christians
 - Living as an asset to your community who makes it a better place to live for everyone
- 1 Peter 2:4-12

What Priests Do

- Serve as missionaries wherever we are
 - In the NT, being priests refers to doing God's work in the world, not in the church
 - The “spiritual sacrifices” make the things we say about Jesus credible
 - This is God's plan for ALL Christians

A Key to the Job

- One another (the church community)
- It is impossible for you to live properly as a priest for God apart from the church community
- The church gives us strength to keep going for God when things get hard
- The community of the church equips us to live as a blessing to the city

Why We Do It

- We sacrifice for those around us because Jesus first sacrificed for us
- God has given us a new and better way of living, and to the extent we believe this is true, we'll live in this new way