

# The Accountability Of The Priest

*“But you are the chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)*

The priests are the persons who minister and serve before God. They are accountable to God in their services; for they lead the people in the way of righteousness and through them people ought to know the truth and live in it.

*In the Old Testament* God had allocated the tribe of Levi from the twelve tribes of Israel to be the family from whom the priests would arise to serve and to minister before God.

But in the new testament, after Jesus Christ the Son of God came from heaven to earth and after His death on the cross for our sins and after His resurrection from the death, those who receive Him as Saviour and Lord, those who follow His steps they are the true priests for God. They are the Royal priesthood, who serve Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and who proclaim His goodness and his righteousness to the people. They are the chosen people and they prove their calling by living in holiness. They are set apart from the world as a holy nation, a people belonging to God. They are called out of darkness into His wonderful light to declare the praises of God to the whole world.

The priests are accountable before God to lead the people in the ways of the Lord and to keep them in His teaching. The word of God in the bible speaks to us the following: *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge, “Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priest; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.” (Hosea 4:6)* Knowing the word of God and knowing how to apply it in life is so essential for people who accepted Christ to receive salvation.

But how the people will have the knowledge of the word of God? This is the responsibility of the priests. They are the church leaders whom God assigned to lead His people and to teach them His word. But if the priests had rejected the word of God, as they don't want to follow and they don't want to teach or unable to teach, then what will happen? As a consequences of that not only themselves are rejected but their spiritual children, the disciples, will not be approved by the Lord because they don't know the word of God and they don't apply God's teaching in their lives.

At the time of the prophet Malachi and that is 400 years before Christ God was not happy with His people; they did not honour God by presenting to Him defective sacrifices and gifts if they would presented them to men it will not be acceptable. And this is what the Lord says, *“A son honours his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honour due to me? If I am a master, where is the respect due to me?” says the LORD Almighty. “It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name.” “But you ask, “How have we shown contempt for your name?” “You placed defiled food on my altar.”*

*“But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ “By saying that the LORD’S table is contemptible. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When*

*you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty.” (Malachi 1:6-8)* And who is responsible for that? The priests who lead the people are responsible because they are in error. *“And now this admonition is for you, O priests. If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honour my name,” says the LORD Almighty, “I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honour me.” (Malachi 2:1-2)*

The above describes the unfaithful priests who are not doing God's work properly. But the Lord spoke about the true priest that He assigned to lead His people. *“My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction—because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.” (Malachi 2:5-7)*

**1) My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace:** As the one who lead the church teaches the word of God correctly, then true life, peace and God's blessings will flow to Him and to the people under His care.

**2) He revered me and stood in awe of my name:** The true priest he honour God and teach the people to offer to God the best of what they have from time, talents and material possessions.

**3) True instruction in his mouth:** The lips of the priest is the mouth piece of God. He should speak precisely and concisely the word of God. He should say the full truth, no compromising and no partiality. The word of God is the truth and when we say the truth the truth will set the people free, As Jesus said, *“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)*

**4) Nothing false on His lips:** Telling half of the truth is a lie. False teaching is not only telling wrong things but even telling part of the truth is a teaching against God.

**5) He walked with God in peace and uprightness:** The Priest should be honest and walk in obedience to God and to His word.

**6) He turns many from sin:** The true teaching of Jesus Christ is hard but it brings true conviction, repentance and salvation.

*My dear and beloved: “For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction—because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty.” (Malachi 2:7)* It is your responsibility as a royal priest to speak the true instruction of the word of God. And it is your responsibility also to find out what others are teaching, the word of God or some other things.

*My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to preach and teach in accord to the full truth of Your Word. Lord I*

*commit myself to give precise instructions and teach your people your ways; nothing false will be in my lips. I will speak your words to sinners without compromising so they will turn toward you and worship you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*