

The Duties of The Priest

Part 2

“But you are a 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.” (1Peter 2:9)

The first appointment of man and woman as priests is to lead others to God through faith in Christ Jesus our lord. And after they are married then they are concentrating on their family to care primarily for their spouses and lead their children and raise them up in the ways and the fear of the Lord.

“²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.” (Ephesians 5:25-26) The man as the priest of the family he should care for the family as Christ care for the church. He should work and earn his living and provide for his wife and children and care for them as Christ caring for the church. The man will function for his family as a pastor who care and lead the church. He will be the pastor for his family. And his family will be a congregation in the church that we belong and God had placed us in. In addition to the man responsibility to provide for the living, he needs to lead his wife and children spiritually directing them with God’s word. That is why the need for daily prayer and reading the word of God in every family. Because the word of God cleanses us and teaches us the ways of the Lord, ***“cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.”***

The man in the family as priest placed by the Lord to lead his local congregation is not alone, but the Lord had placed with him a suitable partner to help him in providing for the family and leading them in the way that God wants them to go. For this reason God’s word tells us the following, ***“²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.” (Ephesians 5:22-24)*** What he meant here by submission, that as man doing his part to provide, care and to lead the family then the wife need to listen to his instructions so that he can care for her and she will be a good helper to him to care for the children.

But if the man is not doing his part for the family and he is disobedient to God’s word and commands then the point of submission of the wife to the husband is not a practical point. Submission should be mutual and to God’s word, ***“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)*** Both husband and wife they need to know very well from God’s word their responsibilities toward one another and toward the family. As God had placed them as priests over their family and children then they need to abide with God’s word and instruction and each one of them should do his part. ***“³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” (Ephesians 5:33)***

Each and every family is a local congregation of the church. Daily the family should gather together in a time suitable for each and every member of the family, to read the word of God and to sing to God and to kneel down at the feet of Jesus for prayer. The family as a local congregation in the church have a family day, where husband and wife and children rest from their work and have their Sabbath rest, ***“⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.” (Exodus 20:9-10)*** In that day they can also go to the church and worship with other families and members of the church.

The family as a local congregation in the church has occasions they celebrate inside the family. Like birthdays of children, wedding anniversaries, graduation and success in school, all that celebrated within the family as thanksgiving to the Lord and affirming commitment to Him who is gracious to them. As God is doing great things for the family, then the family responds to God goodness by keeping and living according to His word and commands.

The family as a local congregation in the church are responsible on the education of the children, and that what is called homeschooling, where children education and studies directed by the priests of the family, the husband and the wife. Education should be based and embodied with God’s word. Each family as a local congregation should be responsible to be the children and youth ministry for their children and youth. Therefore, according to the bible the parents as royal priests they are the children and youth pastors for their children and youth, and that what they are, and they need to do that well.

The primary responsibility of the church is to teach and to train the parents what they need to do for their families and children, and the parents will be the one to train and care for their children. So the church is not the one who will teach the children primarily but the parents and that is their responsibility. The church should help the parents if they are not equipped to equip them and train them to do that. As well as to support the parents in teaching the children and disciplining them until they are equip to do that alone.

In addition to the responsibility of the parents as priest over their local congregation, the family, they are also to take part in the church. Therefore they need to do well in the family and they need to do well with the church. About the overseer of the church ***1Timothy 3:4-5*** says, ***“⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)*** So the parents as priests of the family they need to manage their family, well as well as to take their active part in the church.

My Dear and Beloved: God’s word defines to you and to each and every person of us clearly our job description as royal priests for the Lord. What is left for us is to commit ourselves unto Him and walk faithfully doing our assignment well as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord I commit myself into your hands to live my life as a royal priesthood to lead my family and my children in the way that you wants me to lead them and do my responsibilities correctly as your word describe them to me. Lord gives me the strength and the patience and the skill to do that. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*