

# ***The Duties of The Priest***

## ***Part 10***

***“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 life of the family had great impact on the life of the church. The way we lead our families will finally give the fruit to the church that God had placed us in. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ said, <sup>43</sup> ***“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.” (Matthew 12:33)*** Each family it should be a tree of righteousness that should bear good fruit to the LORD, ***“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.” (Isaiah 61:3b)*** So it is in our hand and jurisdiction to make our families trees of good fruit. If we care for our children and discipline them and raise them up in the fear of the Lord then we will be having good fruit and great outcome for the next generation. But if we will not do our part and raise them up according to God’s word then we are spoiling them and bring destruction for the next generation. Our children are the new disciples who will carry the message of truth to the next generation. Therefore we need to do our mission and part in a perfect way so the future will be secure for them.

The parents as royal priesthood should nurture and raise up their children in the fear of the LORD and teach them to walk in His ways so that God would bless the children and will secure the future to them. Godly children who are raise up in the fear of the LORD are royal priesthood for their future families and holy leaders who will lead the people of God and direct them in the way that God wants them to go. Vice versa; ungodly children who has no fear of God in their hearts and lives will not be blessed by the LORD and they will be cause of trouble to the rest of the people of God.

In one hand the church should help each and every family to raise up their children in the fear of God, in other hand the outcome of each and every family and how they will raise up their children that will have an impact in the life and future of the church. Godly children will bring blessings to the church. But ungodly children with evil deeds will bring trouble on God’s people and the church.

We will speak about a real story happened in the bible at the time of Judges; about priest Eli and his sons. <sup>42</sup> ***Eli’s sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.*** <sup>13</sup> ***Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and while the meat was being boiled, the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand.*** <sup>14</sup> ***He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.*** <sup>15</sup> ***But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give the priest some meat to roast; he won’t accept boiled meat from you, but only raw.”*** <sup>16</sup> ***If the man said to him, “Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want,” the servant would then answer, “No, hand it over now; if you don’t, I’ll take it by force.”*** <sup>17</sup> ***This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD’s sight, for they were treating the LORD’s offering with contempt.” (1Samuel 2:12-17)*** The children of the priest they were doing like that involving themselves in corruption using God’s service to make money and for selfish gain for

themselves. Not only that but more as we can read in the bible, <sup>22</sup> ***Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.” (1Samuel 2:22)*** Not only corruption and using the church for selfish gain and making money, as well as immoralities and sexual relationships among the workers and take advantage of the girls who are involved in God’s service.

Now their father was not aware of that and that is not correct because he should know that before anyone else. Many parents they don’t know what their children are doing, but they hear the wrong doing of their children from other people. That is not right and it means they are not careful in nurturing their children and are not good in raising them up in the fear of the LORD. You see that priest Eli heard all that from the people, and the people as they come to know about all that wrong doing they did not take any action. They received the news as information but no action was taken by the people. Because the people were insensitive to sin and they had neglected the word of God that said the following, ***“You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:140)*** ***“If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.” (Leviticus 20:10)*** When sin is taking place and no one take a disciplinary action then the people of God would become wild, move away from God, sin become so rampant among them, and finally they are insensitive to sin.

What about Eli the priest what action did he take? Let us read the bible, <sup>23</sup> ***So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.*** <sup>24</sup> ***No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD’s people.*** <sup>25</sup> ***If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?” His sons, however, did not listen to their father’s rebuke, for it was the LORD’s will to put them to death.” (1Samuel 2:23-25)*** Priest Eli accepted what his children were doing as wicked things but he did not take the required action that needed to undertake. He needed to stand firm and put his wicked children to death as God’s word says, <sup>48</sup> ***If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him,*** <sup>19</sup> ***his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town.*** <sup>20</sup> ***They shall say to the elders, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard.”*** <sup>21</sup> ***Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.” (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)*** Eli did not do that because he loves his children more than God and more than His word.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** The complacency of the people of God and their tolerance to sin that was because the priest who is leading them was compromising and tolerating sin, for he even did not take any action against his own children who committed sin against God and against his sanctuary. Our tolerance to the sins that our children are doing and not disciplining them and take the required action, that will bring destruction not only on their lives but in the life of the whole church.

***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 to discipline my children and raise them up in the fear of yours. Lord takes away from my heart my emotion that not allowing me to spank my children and discipline them when they do wrong. Lord give me the perseverance and the steadiness to do that carefully knowing that in disciplining them there is fruit and righteousness in their lives, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*