

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

*Part 23*

***“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)***

God’s word show us clear points we need to commit ourselves and observe in serving the LORD being workers and responsible royal priests in His church.

***“<sup>6</sup> The LORD said to me, "Son of man, look carefully, listen closely and give attention to everything I tell you concerning all the regulations regarding the temple of the LORD. Give attention to the entrance of the temple and all the exits of the sanctuary. <sup>6</sup> Say to the rebellious house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Enough of your detestable practices, O house of Israel!' <sup>7</sup> In addition to all your other detestable practices, you brought foreigners uncircumcised in heart and flesh into my sanctuary, desecrating my temple while you offered me food, fat and blood, and you broke my covenant. <sup>8</sup> Instead of carrying out your duty in regard to my holy things, you put others in charge of my sanctuary. <sup>9</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says: No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and flesh is to enter my sanctuary, not even the foreigners who live among the Israelites. <sup>10</sup> " 'The Levites who went far from me when Israel went astray and who wandered from me after their idols must bear the consequences of their sin. <sup>11</sup> They may serve in my sanctuary, having charge of the gates of the temple and serving in it; they may slaughter the burnt offerings and sacrifices for the people and stand before the people and serve them. <sup>12</sup> But because they served them in the presence of their idols and made the house of Israel fall into sin, therefore I have sworn with uplifted hand that they must bear the consequences of their sin, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>13</sup> They are not to come near to serve me as priests or come near any of my holy things or my most holy offerings; they must bear the shame of their detestable practices. <sup>14</sup> Yet I will put them in charge of the duties of the temple and all the work that is to be done in it.” (Ezekiel 44:5-14)***

From the above scripture we can conclude the following points that you ought to observe if you really want to continue to serve God:

***1- No detestable practices you should do in your life: “<sup>6</sup> Say to the rebellious house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Enough of your detestable practices, O house of Israel!'” (Ezekiel 44:6)*** Every one of us before we came to know Christ and give our lives to Him we were part of certain culture and group of people that carry particular tradition and practices. Some of these practices are contradict to the word of God and is incompatible with our new life with Christ, therefore we need to stop them. Some practices coming from human pride and his love to show off (like parties and unnecessary celebrations). Other practices promote immoralities like boy friend and girl friend. Other practices involve much spending and that will affect us and hinder us from being good steward of the resources that God gave us of money, time and body strength. Practices when they are not in accord to God’s word they become idols that man worship. When people love the world, the material things and themselves more than God then that become their idol worship. The Israelites fell in that sin and because of that God rejected them, ***“<sup>33</sup> They worshiped the LORD, but they also served their own gods in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought. <sup>34</sup> To this day they persist in their former practices. They neither worship the LORD nor adhere to the decrees and ordinances, the laws and commands that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he named Israel.” (2King 17:33-34)*** There are certain practices that you were doing before you come to Christ, these you need to stop otherwise you cannot serve God. Being a worker and a royal priest you must understand that you cannot go along the tradition of your own people to please them. Any step backward with the cultural and the traditional things is an invitation for backsliding. Don’t say you are strong. If you are doing the same traditional things the people around you are doing then you are in sin and you need to fully repent and come back to God. You cannot serve both God and the tradition. If you will not repent and return then you will pay much for that. ***“<sup>10</sup>The Levites who went far from me when Israel went astray and who wandered from me after their idols must bear the consequences of***

*their sin.” (Ezekiel 44:10) If you will not repent you will lose your ministry and you will carry all the consequences of your sins. “But because they served them in the presence of their idols and made the house of Israel fall into sin, therefore I have sworn with uplifted hand that they must bear the consequences of their sin, declares the Sovereign LORD.” (Ezekiel 44:12)*

*2- No ministry for those who are not yet sanctified: “In addition to all your other detestable practices, you brought foreigners uncircumcised in heart and flesh into my sanctuary, desecrating my temple while you offered me food, fat and blood, and you broke my covenant.” (Ezekiel 44:7) The non believers and the new believer they may attend the church services but they should not involve in any ministry unless they are sanctified and had set their lives fully to live in holiness for the LORD. Any ministry should not be given based on talent or physical ability; people’s lives and their commitment to God to live in holiness is the essential point that God look on those who serve Him. <sup>9</sup> *This is what the Sovereign LORD says: No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and flesh is to enter my sanctuary, not even the foreigners who live among the Israelites.” (Ezekiel 44:9) Many ministries now use people who have talents but they are not focusing on selecting people who live in holiness for the LORD. Don’t do that please! If you see others are allowing people to play instruments, to lead worship, or doing any ministry but they are not focusing on checking the commitment of the people to live a holy living, yourself don’t follow such a practice: <sup>22</sup> *Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.” (1Timothy 5:22)***

*3- Do not be lazy in doing your ministry: <sup>8</sup> *Instead of carrying out your duty in regard to my holy things, you put others in charge of my sanctuary.” (Ezekiel 44:8) It is not that God is against delegation of a ministry but the point here is that you need to do your own ministry well. Because if the people you are delegating the ministry are not yet committed to God fully and not yet efficient to do it as you, then that will cause harm. Laziness should be away from your life, <sup>58</sup> *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1Corinthians 15:58)***

*4- Those workers who sinned against the LORD and went away and cause others to go away from God then when they repent they need to be restored gradually: For full restoration they need really to prove themselves that they really repented, and time is needed because they have lost their credibility because of the sin that they had done. <sup>11</sup> *They may serve in my sanctuary, having charge of the gates of the temple and serving in it; they may slaughter the burnt offerings and sacrifices for the people and stand before the people and serve them. <sup>12</sup> But because they served them in the presence of their idols and made the house of Israel fall into sin, therefore I have sworn with uplifted hand that they must bear the consequences of their sin, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>13</sup> They are not to come near to serve me as priests or come near any of my holy things or my most holy offerings; they must bear the shame of their detestable practices. <sup>14</sup> Yet I will put them in charge of the duties of the temple and all the work that is to be done in it” (Ezekiel 44:11-14) Their full restoration will take a time; they need really to prove themselves that they really repented because they have lost their credibility with the sin that they had done.**

*My dear and beloved: Look carefully, listen closely and give attention to everything that you had read. Serving God should not be taken lightly. God has His word that we need to follow and apply in our lives if we really interested in serving Him. You cannot put your own rules and follow your own ways to serve God. <sup>5</sup> *Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.” (2Timothy 2:5) You follow God’s word and keep his instruction and He will bless you and your ministry as you agree and pray.**

*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 take heed of all what I read of your instructions. I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_. Lord give me boldness to stand firm on your word and give me wisdom how to handle people and each and every situation, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*