

The Duties of the Priest Part 7

The Impact of the Church in the Family

“11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:.” (Ephesians 4:11-15 KJV)

Christ is the head of the church, and it is He who appoints leaders to lead, guide, instruct and govern His people, so that God’s church will be fully established, attaining the full measure of faith to be like Christ in true righteousness and holiness. Church leaders are commissioned to oversee, to lead and equip the church for Godly works and services. **Each family that belongs to a caring church would receive Biblical advices, training and direction in making right decisions for the family, especially, in time of crisis, and to be protected from lies, compromises, false teaching and from the schemes of the devil.**

After the death of Joshua there was no one appointed to fill his place as a leader over all the people of God because after the generation of Joshua, the next generation grew up without knowing the Lord God of their ancestors who had brought them out of Egypt. The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served other gods. So God was angry and let them be conquered by their enemies. When they were in great distress, the Lord raised up judges who for a time would just save them out of the hands of the raiders. Yet they didn’t listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods for there was no true and permanent leader of Israel to oversee and supervise the system and order of the whole community. The people quickly deviated away from the vision and commandments of the Lord. Compromises with the people in the land filled the Israelite community and so many painful and grieving events happened in the life of the people of God.

“25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25 KJV) They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the LORD’s commands. Everyone was doing what seemed good and right but did not agree with the commandments of God. **When there is no strong and courageous leader or central government to rule God’s people or the church, everyone is free to do what he feels good which most likely will result in hardship, troubles and added distress. Each family in the church is entitled for instructions and clear direction so that they will be able to take the right step to secure the future which God has prepared for His children.**

The events in the book of Ruth happened during the time of Judges. Certainly the family involved did not receive any intervention from a Godly and courageous leader because the story happened during the time of Judges: ***“1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. 2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons***

Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.” (Ruth 1:1-2 KJV) There was famine in the land and this family from the town of Bethlehem decided to move out and go to Moab looking for better living and provision. It was the logical thinking for Elimelech to save his family from famine by moving out from that place. But nothing is mentioned that God had directed them to go and live in Moab for a while. And nothing is mentioned that someone from the people of God had given them advice to take such a decision. They did their own without consulting God. They did as they thought it was best because there was not a responsible person or a system that they could rely for help or ask for right and Godly advice. But what was the outcome of that decision? ***“3 And Elimelech Naomi’s husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. 4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. 5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.” (Ruth 1:3-5 KJV)*** So Elimelech escaped from famine but ended up in death. And as far as the two sons were concerned, they also did what they thought best for them. Being away from the people of God, this paved the way again for another wrong decision, to let the sons be married to non-believer women. **Normally sin begets sin, meaning wrong decision would lead again to take another wrong decision for trying to make things right.** But another catastrophe for this family was the death of the two sons. So clearly the decision to move out from Bethlehem to find temporal relief was not God’s will, for it led to a more destructive situation. **Achieving a temporal solution to a problem could work for sometime but if the problem bounces back and brings more trouble as a consequence of the wrong decision, there is an urgent need to turn back to God and seek His face.**

Later, Naomi took the decision to go back to Bethlehem: ***“6 Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.” (Ruth 1:6 KJV)*** After all, only Ruth went back with her mother-in-law and they reached Bethlehem at the time of the barley harvest. Naomi repented, humbled herself, and again accepted God’s ways and plan. ***“20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went out full and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? 22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.” (Ruth 1:20-22 KJV)*** God truly confirmed His will that this family of Elimelech represented now by Naomi and Ruth needed to come back where they belonged to fulfill the good plan of God for them. Finally Ruth married Boaz, the kinsman redeemer of the family. So the family line was restored and God’s plan was fulfilled. God gave them a son and they named him Obed, ***“22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.” (Ruth 4:22 KJV)***

Going back to the event during the time of famine in the land, the right thing that Elimelech’s family should have done was to remain in Bethlehem, in the house of bread; to wait upon God to relieve them from the famine and not to be enticed to move away and search relief in Moab, a place that God did not ordain for them to live. But this family faced their problem alone and they did not really know who God was and how to seek His will. The lack of central leadership and council of priests and judges in the community of God’s people during that time had affected the decision making and the life of this family. **Similarly, if the church and the leadership of the church will not do its part to direct each and every family as to what**

to do and how to live in the will of God, then wrong decisions or wrong steps will be taken. But if families will seek Godly counsel from our church leaders, catastrophe will be avoided. ***“20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.” (Proverbs 16:20 KJV)***

Church authority ought to have a good and clear impact in the life of families in the church. But certain times even the people of God who are having big problems, do their own will to find solutions and do not consult the church or ask for advice from Godly leaders. This attitude could bring more trouble on themselves and their family. Nevertheless the church and the leadership of the church would not be accountable of the people's sin as long as the leaders of the church had made themselves available and affordable to teach and serve every part of the body of Christ, the families in the church. Hence both the church and every family would be fruitful and effective when these two practical principles are applied:

1. Each and every parent of the family should humble down and accept the offer of the church to teach and equip them on how to manage their living, and how to raise their children in the fear and ways of the Lord.
2. The Church should be available to oversee families and to counsel the parents of each family, and to train them on how to raise up their children. The church should not be busy with activities and performances and fail to meet the basic and spiritual needs of every family in the church.

My Dear and Beloved: The role of the church authority and leadership is very important in the life of families in order to abide with God's Word and be in agreement with the body of Christ. ***“11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” (Ephesians 4:11-12 KJV)*** God has given His Church the gifts of the Holy Spirit and He has made church leaders qualified to equip and prepare God's people for works of service. Each family that belongs to the church should receive Biblical advices, training, and direction in making right decisions for the family especially in times of crisis. Parents who are part of the church are God's people and royal priests who need to be trained and be equipped by the church to care for and nurture their family, and to train and raise up their children in the fear and service of the Lord.

Come now to God and be willing to apply the message that you received today in your life. Be willing to open up the life of your family to the church leaders so they will help you to take the right decision that you need to take so that you will come out from your trial and to avoid wrong steps and the work of Satan in your life and in the life of your family.

Let us 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 life. Lord, thank you for your Word and your teaching that I received in this message. Lord thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the five offices that you gave to your church and for the arrangement that you made to care for the members and the families of the church. Lord thank you for placing me and my family in your house, the Church of God UAE, for the care and the advices that I receives from you

through your church. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message.

Come now to God and confess your sins. Confess and renounce your non willingness to open up your life and the life of your family to the church leaders and asking advice from them. Confess your lack in reading your Bible and life of prayer. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your love for the world, your yoke with non believers and friends, and wasting your time in the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your delayed obedience, and doing your own will and plan. Confess and renounce your lack of faith and easily get discouraged. Confess and renounce your compromises in allowing non Godly marriages. Confess and renounce your non willingness to persevere and suffer in time of trials. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve God and doing the good works that He prepared in advance for you to do. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to come back to you and to the good plan that you have for me and for my family. Lord I am willing to open up my life and the life of my family to the church leaders and asking advice from them. Lord I commit myself to pass through the trials and the suffering that you allow in my life and to persevere in them. Lord I commit myself to serve you and do the good works that you had prepared in advance for me to do. Lord provide for me and sustain me and my family so we will continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and came back to you, willing to live your will and your plan for them and to do the works you had prepared for them to do. Lord help us as a church to guide them and give them the right advice and counsel. Lord give them wisdom and provide them with resources to sustain them in life and in doing your will and in raising their children in the fear of yours.

Lord, bless us as your church and lead us to continue to train parents and families how to care of their children and raise them in the fear of yours. Lord lead us with your Holy Spirit and give us wisdom how to advice our members and give them the right advices, and counsel them in time of crisis. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to teach and implement the principles of preparation for Godly marriage. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Duties of the Priest Part 7. The Impact of the Church in the Family. Ephesians 4:11-15. Judges 21:25. Ruth 1:1-6, 20-22. Ruth 4:22. Proverbs 16:20.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com

Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF
ACCOUNT NO.:
1576003753162014
IBAN:
AE380351576003753162014
SWIFT CODE:
NBADAEAACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.