

Doctrinal Studies

Jesus Christ – High Priest

1. A Priest is a man representing man before God. There are three different priesthoods in the Bible:
 - a. In the Age of the Gentiles there was a bona fide priesthood. The family had a leader: the father, the head of the family, was the priest. When the father of that family died, then his eldest son became the priest.
 - b. In the Dispensation of Israel, we had the Levitical Priesthood. The family of Aaron, in the tribe of Levi, was appointed. The oldest living son was commissioned as the high priest, and was authorized by the Mosaic Law.
 - c. Now we have the dispensation of the Church. In this dispensation, Jesus Christ is our High Priest and we are a kingdom of priests (I Peter 2:5,9).
2. As the High Priest, Jesus Christ is the minister of spiritual things (Hebrews 5:1).
3. Christ was appointed High Priest by God the Father (Hebrews 5:4-10; 6:20).
4. Christ offered Himself as the Sacrifice of the priesthood (Hebrews 9:26-27).
5. Christ has an eternal priesthood (Hebrews 7:20-21, 24). This priesthood will never be changed, abrogated, and never superseded, and we are a part of it.
6. Because of positional sanctification (union with Jesus Christ), every believer is to function as a priest in this life (I Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6, 5:10; 20:6). God's plan is for us to have great capacity in this life and be the recipient of fantastic blessings.
7. Christ as High Priest performs a ministry of intercession for the believer on the earth (Hebrews 7:25). We have an advocate who makes intercession for us. We are to pray to the Father through the Son.
8. The believer-priest, in his earthly life, possesses a number of "sacrifices" or "functions" related to the Levitical code; this illustrates the Priest function:
 - a. The sacrifice of the believer's body (Romans 12:1). This is an illustration of restoration and full-time service.
 - b. Sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15 – capacity).
 - c. Sacrifice of production and giving (Hebrews 13:16).
 - d. Sacrifice of obedience to authority (Hebrews 13:17).