

The Priesthood of All Believers

The priesthood in the Old Testament

a) The first-born male of the family *Ex. 13:2*

b) The tribe of Levi *Numb. 3:11-12*

Moses' big wish: *Numb. 11: 29*

Moses' big wish fulfilled: *Acts 2: 17-18*

The “priesthood of all believers” *1 Pet. 2: 5, 9*

If all believers are priests, what is the role of the pastor?

The pastorate is for those who possess the peculiar gift of being able to help other men and women to practice any ministry to which they are called. Quaker theologian, Elton Trueblood

... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...

Eph. 4: 12 ESV

Katartismos= to equip

1. _____

Ezra 4:12, 16; 5:3, 9, 11; 6:14, Mark 1:19

2. _____

Luke 6:40

3. _____

Eph. 4:12

Every person ministry (it's not a new idea!)

Questions for further reflection:

1. How does viewing yourself as a priest empower you for ministry?
2. Why is it preferable that the pastor (and other leaders) equip all the people for ministry rather than do it all themselves?
3. *Katartismos* is the Greek word for equip in Eph. 4:12. Variations of this word can be found throughout Scripture and fall into 3 different categories. In which of these three areas do you feel you need to be better equipped and why? 1) Being mended/restored, 2) Having a solid foundation in Christ, 3) Being prepared/trained.
4. Why do you think that every-person ministry will be more effective when everyone discovers and develops their spiritual gifts (not just their natural gifts)?
5. What are your spiritual gifts and how do you use them to serve others?