

The Priesthood of Believers

(1 Peter 2:9)

- Introduction:
1. From time to time, we need to re-evaluate ourselves and see where we really stand from God's perspective (2 Corinthians 13:5).
 2. As we began 2011, we did so with a renewed zeal to reach out to the lost and the weak, and minister to their needs.
 3. However, before we can really expect others to be a part of our church family, we must first demonstrate we possess character traits that are inviting.
 4. Let's focus on our obligations as children of God, and in particular members of the Karns Church of Christ.

I. Individual Responsibility

- A. (Numbers 32:6).
- B. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- C. (Romans 12:4-8).
- D. (Mark 9:41; Hebrews 6:10).

II. The Priesthood Of All Believers

- A. (1 Peter 2:9).
- B. There is no clergy or laity system in the Lord's church (Matthew 23:8-10).
- C. The stringent demands of the Old Testament Priesthood (Leviticus 21).
 1. God places demands on the lives of those who serve as priests.
 2. While the specifics changed with the change of the law, His high expectations have not changed.
- D. Begin/continue/re-dedicate yourself to ministering to God.
 1. (Exodus 17:10-13) Aaron and Hur.
 2. (Matthew 26:6-10) Woman with alabaster flask.
 3. And then there's your story...
- E. Final Warning (Matthew 25:14-30).

- Conclusion:
1. We have a tremendous amount of resources available in this congregation.
 2. Let us serve God with zeal.
 3. Let us realize our status as priests in the kingdom of God and live up to that high calling.
 4. And through our efforts may God be glorified and our fellow man saved from his sins.