



## **Part 19: A Community of Royal Priests**

1 Peter 2:9

We have been given a new status and a new function as co-heirs and royal priests within the Kingdom of God.

Kingdom People: We are a Kingdom community that is shaped by love, creativity, and justice.

### **I. The Case for Royal Status**

“We have gone from spiritual destitution to being co-enthroned with the risen and exalted Lord of the universe. This is far better than a rags-to-riches story. We have gone from worldly wretchedness to royal status.” – Michael F. Bird, *Romans*

### **II. The Case for Kingdom Priesthood Function**

“So what we have here is a distinct calling: the dual role of having an inherited privilege of ruling God’s people and of serving as mediators between God and his people. To call all members of the new family of God, a royal priesthood meant (1) to wipe away any sense of physical lineage and heritage, and (2) to grant to these same people the highest statuses that one could imagine in Judaism: kings and priests.” – Scot McKnight, *The NIV Application Commentary Book 17: 1 Peter*

### **III. The Landscape for Royal Priests in our Cultural Moment**

### **IV. The Implications of Living into a Royal Priesthood**

“The royal priesthood is part of the essence of the church; it is not just a desirable feature of the church. For the church to live up to its God-given nature, the church must understand itself as a priesthood. All believers need to see themselves as part of this royal priesthood and they need to live accordingly.” – Robert Muthiah, *The Priesthood of All Believers in the Twenty-First Century*

## V. Three Primary response postures:

- Discovery:
- Recalibration:
- Continuation:

### Further Resources:

The Bible Project video: [The Royal Priesthood](#)

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship video: [Priesthood of All Believers \(N.T. Wright and John Witvliet\)](#)

*The Priesthood of All Believers in the Twenty-First Century: Living Faithfully as the Whole People of God in a Postmodern Context* by Robert A. Muthiah, Pickwick Publications

### Discussion Questions:

1. What did you hear in the sermon this week that stood out to you?
2. Is there anything you heard in the sermon that challenges you or that you disagree with?
3. After hearing this explanation of 1 Peter 2:9 and the idea of “royal priesthood,” how does this shape your understanding of how you are to follow Jesus?
4. How does being a “royal priesthood” shape the lens in which you see and engage with the world around you?
5. What might be some benefits of functioning as a “royal priesthood” in our church community?
6. What might be some challenges of functioning as a “royal priesthood” in our church community?
7. What is a next step that you can take this week to live into being a “royal priest”?

### Bibliography:

Bird, Michael F., and Scot McKnight. *Romans*. Illustrated edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Academic, 2016.

Edwards, Dennis R. *1 Peter*. Edited by Tremper Longman III and Scot McKnight. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Academic, 2017.

Jobes, Karen H., Robert Yarbrough, and Joshua Jipp. *1 Peter*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2022.

McKnight, Scot. *1 Peter*. Unknown edition. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan Academic, 1996.

Muthiah, Robert A. *The Priesthood of All Believers in the Twenty-First Century*. Pickwick Publications, 2009.