

EVERY BELIEVER A PRIEST

JAMES 5:13-20

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Previously we learned that the Reformation taught us to interpret Scripture by Scripture. Here it (and Scripture) teaches us that all believers are priests (with different roles and gifts) and that all are equal.

TO PRAY, TO PRAISE, TO COMFORT—As God’s priest, you are to take care of your relationship with the Lord, but you are also to take care of your fellow priests. (**James 5:13-15, fn 5:14, 15[1st], fn 5:14, 15[2nd], fn 5:15, I Peter 2:4, 5, fn 2:5, II Corinthians 1:3-7, fn 1:6, 7, Mark 1:35-37, fn 1:35-37, John 14:12-14, fn 14:14**) *Why should you pray in Jesus’s name?*

TO MEET WITH, TO PRAY WITH EACH OTHER—When you believed, you traded your sin for Christ’s righteousness. Now, justified by faith with the righteousness of Christ, you are accepted by our Lord; and as His priest, your prayers are powerful and effective. Therefore, in small groups, you confess your sins to one another and pray for one another. (**James 5:16-18, fn 5:16, fn 5:16-18, II Corinthians 5:21, fn 5:21, Hebrews 4:14-16, fn 4:16, I John 1:5-2:2, fn 1:9[2nd], fn 2:2[1st], Hebrews 10:24, 25, fn 10:25**) *How could you be aware of the needs of those in your group and take care of them?*

TO BRING ALL TO CHRIST—As priest, Jesus has given you the ministry of reconciliation. Your ministry involves bringing back believers who have wandered or drifted away from the Lord. You could ask them, “How is your relationship with the Lord going?” To minister to unbelievers you could ask them, “If you died tonight, where would you be tomorrow?” (**James 5:19, 20, fn 5:19, 20, I Peter 2:9, 10, fn 2:9, II Corinthians 5:16-20, fn 5:20, Matthew 28:16-20, fn 28:18**) *With the God given responsibility of a priest, how could you fulfill your role to bring all to Christ?*

Check up—How is your relationship with your neighbor, your spouse, and your Lord? Do your actions show that you are being led by the Holy Spirit?