

“A Royal Priesthood”
Romans 15:14-17

Introduction:

1. Before We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To The Book Of Romans This Morning:
 - I Want Us To Consider First:
 - The Words Of The Apostle Peter:
 - Which We Find In:
 - 1 Peter 2:9!
 - Where He Writes To:
 - And Describes All True Christians:
 - In This Way:
 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light!”
2. If You Are A Born-Again Believer In Christ:
 - Then - Not Only Are You:
 - Part Of God’s Own:
 - “Chosen Generation” & People:
 - You Are Also - Right Now:
 - A Member Of His “Royal Priesthood!”
 - What This Means:
 - Is That - As You Rely Upon:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Great High Priest:
 - You Have Also Been Given Responsibilities:
 - As A Priest Yourself:
 - In Service To The Lord!
3. Now - What Is A Priest?
 - A Priest Is A Person:
 - Who Is A Representative:
 - In Spiritual Things!
 - And That Representation:
 - Goes In Two Directions!
 - First - A Priest Is:
 - A Representative:
 - From God To Man - And:
 - Second - A Priest Is:
 - A Representative:
 - Of Man To God!
 - And So - The Responsibility Of A Priest:
 - Is Not Only To:
 - Bring God’s Words & Will:
 - To Man!
 - But It Is Also To:
 - Bring Men:
 - Unto God!
4. And This Is One Of The Great Responsibilities:
 - Every Member Of This Church Has:
 - Before God & Before Men!
 - You Are A Member Of:
 - God’s Own “Royal Priesthood!”
 - Now - With This In Mind:
 - Let’s Head Back To Romans 15:
 - Where - Starting With The Verses We Come To This Morning:
 - The Apostle Paul Begins The:
 - “Closing Remarks” Of His Entire Letter!

- And In 15:14-17:
 - He Describes Two Main Viewpoints:
 - That He Had:
 - About - Not Only:
 - His Own Ministry - As An Apostle!
 - But Also:
 - The Ministry They Had:
 - As A Church!

5. So - Let's Read Together:

- Romans 15:14-17:
 - "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. / Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, / That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. / I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God!"
- Now - In Many Ways:
 - The Ministries Paul Highlights:
 - In These Verses:
 - Reflect The Ministries:
 - Of Priests!
 - And Since You & I Are Members:
 - Of God's Own "Royal Priesthood" - Then:
 - These Responsibilities:
 - Are Our Responsibilities As Well!
 - So - Let's Look More Closely:
 - At These Responsibilities:
 - From These Verses!

* First - Starting In 15:14 - We Find The Priestly Responsibility Of:

1. **Bringing God To Man!**

- Which We See In:
 - The Persuasion The Apostle Paul Had:
 - About The Church Of Rome!
 - Because - After Praying A Special Prayer:
 - For Them - In 15:13 - He Says:
 - "And I Myself Am Persuaded Of You!"
 - Now - Remember What Paul Prayed?
 - 15:13 - "Now the God of hope *fill* you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost!"
 - This Was The Apostle Paul's Prayer & Desire For:
 - That Roman Church!
 - That God Would "**Fill**" Them With:
 - Astounding Joy!
 - Abiding Peace! And:
 - Abounding Hope!
 - But - In Many Ways:
 - God Had Already Answered His Prayer!
 - Because Again - In 15:14 - Paul Writes:
 - "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are *full* of goodness, *filled* with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another!"
 - So - Paul Was "Persuaded" And:
 - Personally Convinced:
 - That God Had Already Done:
 - A Good Work In Their Hearts & Lives!
 - And This Work In Them:
 - Prepared Them For Their Work:
 - To Others - As A "Royal Priesthood!"

- What Was Paul Convinced & Persuaded About?
 - Four Things! He Was Persuaded About:
- Their Condition!
 - He Was Persuaded About ***Them!***
 - And Their Spiritual Condition & Connection:
 - As “Brethren!”
 - So - Even Though:
 - There Were Still Things:
 - That Needed To Be Worked On:
 - He Was Given Assurance:
 - That They Were Part Of The Family Of God!
 - This Is Something The Writer Of Hebrews Described:
 - In Hebrews 6:9 - “But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak!”
 - And Since - In The Roman Church:
 - “Things That Accompany Salvation” Were Found In Them Too:
 - Paul Could Be “Persuaded” About Their Spiritual Condition As Well!
 - They Were True Members Of:
 - God’s “Royal Priesthood!”
 - He Was Also Persuaded About:
- Their Character!
 - And That They Were “Full Of Goodness!”
 - Though They Needed To Be:
 - “Re-Filled” & Re-Fueled:
 - In Some Ways!
 - They Were Already “Full” In:
 - Other Ways!
 - And - In The Roman Church:
 - There Was A Spirit:
 - Of Goodness & Kindness:
 - Among Them!
 - As One Writer Describes It:
 - A “Generosity Of Heart & Action!”
 - And This Goodness:
 - Is Only Found Elsewhere In The NT:
 - As A Fruit Of The Spirit Of God!
 - Ephesians 5:9 - “For the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth!”
 - So - This Church Had:
 - An Overall Desire To:
 - Think About Each Other!
 - Talk About Each Other! And:
 - Treat Each Other:
 - In Ways That Were Genuinely Good & Kind - Because:
 - They Were Motivated & Empowered By The Holy Spirit!
 - Their Character:
 - Reflected The Character:
 - Of Jesus Christ Himself!
 - And They Were “Full Of Goodness!”
 - Paul Was Also Persuaded About:
 - Their Comprehension!
 - And That They Had Been:
 - “Filled With All Knowledge!”
 - This Doesn’t Mean That:
 - They All Became Geniuses:
 - And Could Win Every Game Of Trivial Pursuit!
 - But That - God Himself:
 - Had Given Them:
 - A Special Knowledge & Comprehension:

- Of The Truth - And:
 - About Those Spiritual Things That Not Only Save - But Also:
 - Sanctify & Edify!
- And - Its Seems In This Verse:
 - That Their Knowledge & Comprehension:
 - Was Closely Related To:
 - Their Goodness & Character!
 - And As They Were:
 - Filled Up With:
 - Knowledge About:
 - God & His Goodness & Grace:
 - It Spilled Out Of Their Hearts:
 - And Into The Lives Of Others!
 - **IE:** Like An Overflowing Cup Of Coffee!
 - And The More God Manifested:
 - Himself To Them - The More:
 - They Were Motivated:
 - To Display Him To Others!
 - But Paul Was Also Persuaded About:
 - Their Capability!
 - And How They Were:
 - “Able Also To Admonish One Another!”
 - That Is - They Were Given The Ability:
 - Help Each Other:
 - Grow In The Knowledge & Goodness Of God!
 - “Admonish” Here Can Also Be Translated:
 - Exhort & Even Warn!
 - Charles Hodge - “To Bring The Truth Seasonably To Bear On The Mind And Conscience!”
 - And God Had Given Them The Ability To Do This!
 - And The Apostle Paul:
 - Was Persuaded Of All These Things:
 - About The Roman Church!
 - Their Condition!
 - Their Character!
 - Their Comprehension! And:
 - Their Capability!
 - God Had Blessed That Church:
 - And They Were Full!
 - And They Were Able To Fulfill Their Responsibility:
 - As A Royal Priesthood:
 - To Bring Their Fulness Of God To Each Other!
 - But - What Was True About:
 - The Roman Church:
 - Is Also True:
 - About Every True Church:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - If We Are A Church:
 - With The Right Condition:
 - Based On The Gospel Of Jesus Christ:
 - Then - God Had Filled Us Also:
 - Through The Holy Spirit!
 - He Has Filled Us Up:
 - With His Goodness / His Knowledge / His Power:
 - So That We Can Fulfill Our Responsibility As His “Royal Priesthood!”
 - **IE:** We Are His Cups - And The More He Fills Us Up - The More We Need To Spill Out To Others!
 - Think About:

- Your Own Spiritual Fruit - Like Goodness!
 - Do You Use What You Have:
 - To Bless & Encourage Others?
- Think About:
 - Your Own Spiritual Knowledge & Understanding!
 - Do You Share What You Have:
 - To Edify Others?
- Think About:
 - Your Own Spiritual Empowerment!
 - God Has Not Only Given You:
 - The Opportunities To Bring Him To Others:
 - He Will Enable You & Help You To Do So!
- And This Is:
 - Our Responsibility
 - As A "Royal Priesthood!"
 - We Are To Use What We've Been Given:
 - To Bring The Knowledge & Goodness Of God:
 - To Men!
 - But - We Also Have:
 - A Second Priestly Responsibility:
 - Which Is:

2. ***Bringing Men To God!***

- Which Is What We See In:
 - 15:15-16 - Where We Find:
 - The Privilege The Apostle Paul Had:
 - In Serving The Lord!
 - As He Writes:
 - "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, / That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost!"
 - In 15:15 - He Tells The Roman Church That:
 - Even Though He Knows:
 - That God Has Given Them All The Resources They Need:
 - To Fulfill Their Ministry & Service To Each Other!
 - He Has His Own Ministry & Service:
 - To Fulfill As Well:
 - "Because Of The Grace That Is Given To Me Of God!"
 - The Grace & Gift Of Being:
 - An Apostle Of Jesus Christ, Especially To The Gentile Nations!
 - And That Is Why He Felt Compelled:
 - To Write To Them:
 - "The More Boldly . . . In Some Sort" - Or:
 - About Some Issues & Matters In Which They Were Coming Short!
 - All Throughout The Book Of Romans:
 - God Was Using The Apostle Paul:
 - To "Fill" Them Up:
 - Even More!
 - And Even Though He Could Count Them:
 - Still As "Brethren" - They Still Needed:
 - To Be Challenged About:
 - Their Doctrine & Their Duties As A Church!
 - And So - Paul Explains How God Had Called Him:
 - To Serve As A Member Of His:
 - "Royal Priesthood!"
 - And He Considered His Call:
 - To Be The Greatest Privilege Of His Life!

- Because - From 15:16 We See:
- Who He Was Sent By!
 - Jesus Christ!
 - “That I Should Be The Minister Of Jesus Christ!”
 - The Word “Minister” Here:
 - Has Spiritual & Religious Overtones!
 - He Considered His Call As:
 - A High & Holy Calling In Service Of The Lord!
- And Paul Never Got Over:
 - What Took Place On The Road To Damascus:
 - Many Years Before!
- Listen To Paul’s Own Testimony To King Agrippa:
 - Found In Acts 26:12-19 - “As I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, / At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. / And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? [it is] hard for thee to kick against the pricks. / And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. / But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; / Delivering thee from the people, and [from] the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, / To open their eyes, [and] to turn [them] from darkness to light, and [from] the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. / Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision!”
- Each One Of Us:
 - Have Been Called & Sent By The Lord As Well!
 - 2 Timothy 1:9 - “Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began!”
 - But - Can You Say:
 - What Paul Said?
 - “I Was Not Disobedient!”
- Part Of Our Responsibility:
 - As God’s “Royal Priesthood” Is:
 - To Bring Men To God!
 - This Is Why Jesus:
 - Sent Paul - And:
 - This Is Why Jesus:
 - Has Sent Us!
 - But We Also See:
- Who He Was Sent To!
 - The Gentiles! (15:16)
 - In Ephesians 2:12 - The Apostle Paul:
 - Defines & Describes The Condition Of Gentiles:
 - “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world!”
 - What A Miserable Condition:
 - People Are In:
 - Apart From Christ!
 - And Most Of Them Don’t Even Know It!
 - But Then - In Ephesians 2:13 - Paul:
 - Describes What Happens To Them:
 - Through The Gospel - “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ!”
 - More Than Likely:
 - The Church Of Rome:
 - Was Made Up Of Mostly Gentiles!

- And Paul Felt A Great Responsibility For Them:
 - Because Of The Gift Of His Call!
- But - In Truth - Each One Of Us:
 - Have Been Sent To:
 - Our Own "Gentiles!"
 - Our Own Circle Of People:
 - That Surround Us:
 - Who Need The Lord!
 - Do You Know Someone:
 - Without Christ?
 - That Person Is The Gentile:
 - That You Can Bring To The Lord!
 - Family? Friends? Coworkers? Neighbors?
 - But - How? Like Paul We See:
- What He Was Sent With!
 - The Gospel! (15:16)
 - "Ministering The Gospel Of God!"
 - "Ministering" Here Also:
 - Has Spiritual & Religious Overtones!
 - Also Translated - "Priestly Service / Duty!"
 - So - The Primary Mission Of The Apostle Paul:
 - And - Really - Every Christian:
 - Was To Bring To The People He Knew:
 - "The Good Tidings Of Great Joy" That Even The Angels Described:
 - At Jesus' Birth!
 - And - As You Witness:
 - To Others:
 - "The Wonderful Works Of God!"
 - It Is Worship:
 - To Him As Well!
 - That's Right!
 - Worship Is Not Just:
 - What Goes On In Here:
 - Its' What Goes On Out There!
 - And So - We Further See:
 - What He Was Sent For!
 - "That The Offering Up Of The Gentiles Might Be Acceptable, Being Sanctified By The Holy Ghost!" (15:16)
 - Here - The People Paul Was Called To Minister To:
 - Are Described In Terms Of:
 - A Sacrificial Offering:
 - That Pleases God!
 - Through The Gospel:
 - Not Only Do We:
 - Bring God To Men:
 - Because Of The Sacrifice & Offering Jesus Christ Made:
 - For Our Sins!
 - But We Also:
 - Bring Men To God:
 - So That - By Faith - They May "Present Their Bodies A Living Sacrifice, Holy, Acceptable Unto God!" (12:1)
 - John Calvin Once Described:
 - The Gospel As:
 - The Sword Used:
 - In This Spiritual Sacrifice!
 - And In Once Sence:
 - That Is True!
 - But - I See The Gospel More:

- As The Leash - By Which We Bring:
 - Lost Sheep To The Altar Of The Cross:
 - So That They Might See The Lamb Of God As Their Substitute:
 - And Believe!
- And When We Bring Men To God:
 - In This Way:
 - God Himself:
 - Will Put His Stamp Of Approval On It:
 - “Being Sanctified By The Holy Ghost!”
 - And This Too Is:
 - Our Responsibility:
 - As A “Royal Priesthood!”
 - We Are To Use The Gospel:
 - To Bring Men To God!

Conclusion:

1. And When We - By God’s Own Grace & Strength:
 - Perform Our Functions As:
 - His “Royal Priesthood” - Then & Only Then:
 - Will We Have Something:
 - To Be Proud Of & Glory In!
 - Even As Paul Did:
 - In 15:17 - “I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God!”
 - In Other Words:
 - Because God Blessed His Ministry:
 - In Bringing Both:
 - God To Men & Men To God!
 - He Could Glory In:
 - Not Himself Or His Own Work:
 - But In Jesus Christ:
 - And His Work!
 - Because He Alone:
 - Is The Great High Priest!
 - Even As Peter Once Wrote:
 - 1 Peter 3:18 - “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God!”
 - 2. And This Is:
 - Your Primary Responsibility As:
 - Part Of God’s “Royal Priesthood!”
 - We Bring:
 - God To Men - And:
 - We Bring:
 - Men To God - By:
 - Pointing All:
 - To Our Great High Priest:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 3. Will You Fulfill Your Responsibilities:
 - As God’s “Royal Priesthood?”

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