

# SOME PILLARS OF CHURCH LIFE

## PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

*Ephesians 4:7, 11-16*

### **How is Every Believer a Priest?**

*1 Peter 2:5-10*

- ❑ A priest was someone who both represented the people before God and represented God to the people. We are all supposed to represent God to the people we come in contact with every day. Are you conscious of that? Is that how you approach people?
- ❑ While we all have different functions, no one part is more necessary than another. We all have a responsibility to the body and we need to be willing to contribute that part.

### **The Context**

*Ephesians 4:1-6*

While we are all being encouraged to live a worthy life, the goal is unity. Sound familiar?

*Ephesians 4:7-10*

- ❑ Unity does not mean uniformity. Not everyone has been given the same gifts.
- ❑ This passage uses a difficult quote that will need to wait for another message.
- ❑ Christ distributes the gifts as He sees fit. He has the authority to do this because:
  1. He descended in the sense that He came to Earth (His incarnation). This is His humiliation from *Philippians 2:7*.
  2. He ascended by going to the throne the Father had prepared for Him. *Philippians 2:9*

### **The Point**

#### **Every Believer is a Minister**

*Ephesians 4:11-13*

- ❑ God gave gifts to the body, and some of those gifts were leaders.
  1. Apostles and Prophets are considered the foundation that the church is built upon. We read the Bible today thanks to God's gift of these people.
  2. Evangelists reach out with the gospel, even today.
  3. Pastors and teachers have the responsibility to teach, lead, protect and encourage the members of the body.
- ❑ Notice that the men Christ gave to the church are not the ones "doing" all of the ministry. My job is to equip *you* to do the work of the ministry while I am doing the work of the ministry in my own life.
- ❑ As each part learns how to minister and does their part, the body is built up. All of us must seek unity and maturity in Christ.

#### **Maturity Means We Will Minister to One Another**

*Ephesians 4:14-16*

- ❑ Maturity is when you know sound doctrine and are not swayed by false teaching.
- ❑ Speaking the truth in love—that is a loaded phrase. That is ministry.
- ❑ Your work in other people's lives could be summarized as this. Are you seeking to encourage and strengthen the rest of the body? Are you using the gifts you have been given to help everyone mature in Christ?
- ❑ You must do your work for the body to be mature. What is your part in the body? Are you confronting sin? Are you encouraging the discouraged people? Are you reminding people of who God is? You cannot leave this work to others.