

## ARE THERE PRIESTS IN THE LORD'S CHURCH?

S.R. 1Pet.2: 5 & 9

**Intro.** The question is asked to make us think! Most denominations have a “clergy”, that is a body of people appointed as ministers, priests, rabbis, pastors, vicars etc.. They are distinguished from “ordinary” members by special titles, roles, qualifications, functions and even clothing. *Did God establish such a body in His church?*

### The Old Testament

- Ex.28:1-2 Aaron & sons chosen by God as priests.  
Lev.1:5 The Priests to prepare the offerings.  
Lev.16 & 17 Priests to make atonement for whole nation (Heb.5:1-4)  
Mat.8:4 Jesus recognized the lawful function of the priest

OT Priest [kohen]: one who may “draw near”. The Levites were chosen by God to serve as priests and ministers in a full time capacity, devoting their lives to the duties required by God for a nation of religious people. They acted “on behalf” of the people and provided a “means” by which men could approach God. (They were not empowered to forgive sins, just help the sinner approach God! – Mat.6:12-15, Mar.2:7)

### The New Testament

- Mat.12:6 Jesus said; “something greater is here” (Heb.7:22).  
Mat.16:18 He was going to build His church.  
Heb.4:14-15 Jesus is now High Priest. (Heb.5:5-11)  
Heb.7:12 Priesthood changed. (Heb.8:7-13)  
Mat.28:19 Make disciples of all nations.  
Gal.3:28 There are no distinctions; we are *all* called to be Christians!

### The Priesthood Today

(NAS) 1Pet. 2:9 “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”  
[1Pet.2:5, Rev.1:6, 5:10, 20:6]

**EVERY** Christian, is *chosen* by God to be a priest; i.e. one who dedicates & devotes his or her life to serving God. If that is the case, then our function as priests is also a FULL time calling!

We can all “draw near” because Jesus has made it possible.

We can worship Him without the need for someone to act on our behalf!

### Conclusion

There is a ‘priesthood’ in the church that Jesus built. There is most definitely *not* a “clergy” system, or at least one that I can find!