

'WORSHIP GOD WANTS' ***(Portraits of Christ in the Tabernacle)*** **Exodus, Leviticus & Hebrews**

'Holy Orders' ***(Qualified, Called, Anointed)***

The religious hierarchy of Roman Catholicism and some of their close religious relatives (*Orthodox, Anglican, some Lutherans, etc.*) is based on a *priesthood* that outwardly resembles Old Testament Judaism. The resemblance is not spiritual, but cosmetic, as to ancient religious garb, liturgical rites, clergy superiority over their congregations, and a hierarchy system of priests, bishops, archbishops, etc. who are in *vicar* (*stand-ins for Christ*) roles between the people and God.

RCC seminarians, upon graduation, are put into diaconate roles that precede becoming priests when bishops put hands on and ordain them into lifelong positions of their religious system. In the Roman Catholic Church, becoming a priest is one of the *grace-conveying sacraments* of Romanism and is called *Holy Orders*. Their process of getting into the priesthood is a selection of a religious system, instead of a *calling* by the Holy Spirit based upon Scriptural qualifications, preparation, and consecration.

Charles H. Spurgeon, who refused to be ordained by any denomination, said of typical *religious ordinations* – *'Empty hands on empty heads. Man can't put in what God has left out.'*

The idea of examining of a man's theological understanding and spiritual preparation prior to *laying on of hands upon him* (**1 Timothy 4:14, 5:21-22**) is wise, but to assume that denominational academics and the right wardrobe of notched collars, elaborate robes, and ability to repeat old liturgies as a divine calling from God, is totally *out of order* according to the Scriptures. The Old Testament priest of Israel who served in the Tabernacle was a preview of 'Jesus, our Great High Priest' (Hebrews 9:12) and of the New Testament believer's role as Church Age priests (1 Peter 1:9-10) until Christ comes.

Because of the false teaching of Roman Catholicism about *priesthood*, many serious atrocities are the legacy of the RCC – many priests who have no business being entrusted with people's souls; thus people are not taught the true gospel message or Scriptures. They learn old man-made prayers to repetitiously recite and how to disobediently pray to dead saints or Mary and angels. Passively they sit, uninvolved in ministry, submitting to biblically ignorant priests who are sometimes as vile as the world around them, etc.

This sadly warped view of priestly ministry keeps a religious elite in power and their congregations in bewildered submission to ancient unbiblical rituals, rites, and traditions that never clarify salvation or facilitate spiritual growth (**Colossians 2:20-23**). Because *holy orders* are permanent for life, priests are assured a *safe place* in the RCC no matter what they do – for instance, pedophile priests, although sometimes removed from high profile positions, remain on the payroll until the day they die (*paid for by Roman Catholic givers*). Biblical Christianity offers no such *free pass* on sin to anybody, including all spiritual leaders if they fail to teach true biblical doctrine, fail morally, or abuse their *example position* in Christ's Church (**1 Timothy 5:19-20**).

The Tabernacle, the altar, laver, the sacrifices and all the furniture within were holy unto the Lord. Therefore, those administering the sacrifices and ministries in the Holy Place also had to be holy as well. The High Priest was a preview of the holiness of Christ and all other priests were examples of New Testament believers and the holiness required of them to serve the Lord in their ministries and churches (**2 Timothy 2:19-26, 1 Peter 5:1-4**). Every truly *born-again* follower of Christ is a priest or priestess of God and is obliged to discover then use their spiritual gifts in a good Bible teaching church ministry (**1 Peter 4:8-11**). We are under *holy orders* from God, not only to do something special for God, but also to be someone special, as we do it for His honor and glory (**Colossians 3:15-17**). **PtL**

‘Holy Orders’ – “Be Holy, for I Am Holy”
(Previews of Christ & Christians in the Tabernacle Priesthood)

<p><u>Tabernacle Priesthood</u> (Old Testament priesthood) Aaron & sons, Levites</p> <p>High standards/ Leviticus 21 Preparation/ Numbers 4:3, 8:23-26 Ordination/ Exodus 30:22-33 Leviticus 8</p> <p><u>Concluded at the Cross</u> <i>(but still copied by RCC, etc.)</i></p>	<p><u>Melchizedek Priesthood</u> (Perpetual High Priest)</p> <p>Genesis 14:18-20, Psalm 110:4 Hebrews 7 Hebrews 2 Revelation 1</p> <p><u>Continuing: Cross to Kingdom</u> <i>(since the cross in heaven)</i></p>	<p><u>Church Age Believer-Priests</u> (New Testament priesthood)</p> <p>Deuteronomy 7:6-8 John 15:14-17 Acts 1:8 1 Peter 1:5, 9 <i>(Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6)</i></p> <p><u>Church Age & Kingdom</u> <i>(implemented by NT churches)</i></p>
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Discussion & Questions:

- Do you agree that all Christians have been called by God to serve as ‘believer-priests’ after they come to faith in Christ? (*John 15:14-16*). If this doesn’t mean we are some clergy caste-system presiding over religious ceremonies, what does being believer-priests mean in this Church Age?
- Within Christianity some believers are *called* by God to full time vocational use of their spiritual gifts in ministry (*Acts 13:1-3, 1 Corinthians 9:9-14, 1 Timothy 4:12-14, 5:22*). If just receiving theological training and denominational approval isn’t enough to be sure of being called to full-time Christian ministry, what are biblical indicators someone is *called*?
- How can you tell if God is calling you into usual local church ministry or to a full time vocational ministry?
- Do you think that regular volunteer church ministry is less important or more important than full time vocational Christian work? (*Why or why not?*)
- If God calls you to full time dedication of your life to serve Him with your spiritual gifts and abilities, will you answer ‘*the call*’ and do it? What if He calls your kids or grandkids?
- What would keep you from going into full-time ministry? (Is that a biblical reason?)