

## Prophets, Priests, and Kings...at Work? Part 2

### Overview:

One of the challenges of living as a Christian in the workplace is knowing *how* to practically express your faith in a culture that often discourages overt expressions of religious belief.

The previous discussion introduced the three offices of Christ—roles that Christ filled during his ministry on Earth: the prophet, priest, and king. These roles serve as an over-arching theme in Scripture, defining how God’s people interact with the world and providing a framework to guide our workplace interactions today.

**Context:** This discussion explores our role as workplace priests. It would be easy for this concept to stay at the theoretical level, so work to translate the four responsibilities identified below into practical terms.

**Priest** – 1 Pet 2:5, Heb 4:14-15, Heb 6:19-20

Priests are bridge builders between the people and God. “He or she brings organizations, corporations, people, problems, and opportunities to God, lifting them up in intercession and prayer. But the priest also brings God’s perspective and grace to people and places. **Priests touch God on behalf of people and places, and they touch people and places on behalf of God.**”<sup>1</sup>

As a group, look more deeply at 1 Pet 2:9. What’s your gut reaction when you realize your role as a modern priest extends to your workplace? In practical terms, how might you fulfill this role?

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Pet 2:9

In the workplace, “priests” have four key responsibilities:

- Lifting the needs of the workplace to God through prayer. Priests **INTERCEDE**, bringing the people’s concerns before God.
- Moving the atmosphere at work from **HOSTILITY to HOSPITALITY**: Henri Nouwen explains, “Hospitality...means the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Jessen, Dan. “Ministry Dimensions of Daily Work,” Unpublished paper. September 1993. Charlotte, North Carolina.

<sup>2</sup> Nouwen, Henri. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

- Changing the workplace from a **SPACE to a PLACE**: Many offices, factories, or warehouses are raw, artificial spaces that could become places of collaboration and community.

“It is priestly work, like that of Adam and Eve who were called to extend the sanctuary garden into the world, to trim the hedges, name the animals, and bring beauty, order, and safety to the rest of the earth. It is precisely the priesthood of Adam and Eve and their descendants to extend the garden into the world by **creating places of sanctuary, loveliness, and prosperity.**”<sup>3</sup>

- Replacing **INFORMATION with MYSTERY**: In the information age, words are processed, rather than savored. Most people’s value is measured by the thousands of bytes of information stored in their email accounts and the slot they fill on an org chart. **More than ever the workplace needs a priesthood that lives on the edge of mystery.**
  - o In what ways does your workplace need priestly care?
  - o Spend a few minutes “fleshing out” each of the four responsibilities. Think of practical ways you can
  - o How can you practically build bridges between God and your colleagues, clients, or organization?

### **Additional Resources:**

“The Priesthood of All Believers” by Al Lindsey, The Institute for Faith, Work & Economics  
<https://tifwe.org/resource/the-priesthood-of-all-believers/>

---

<sup>3</sup>Jessen, Dan. “Ministry Dimensions of Daily Work,” Unpublished paper. September 1993. Charlotte, North Carolina.