

Prophets, Priests, and Kings...at Work? Part 3

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. Scripture describes three roles that apply to all believers—those of prophets, priests, and kings. While you’re unlikely to turn these roles into job titles, they provide an empowering framework for our working lives.

Context:

Princes/Kings: Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 6:9-10

Princes rule by **coordinating** and **organizing** their organizations. They serve as God’s ministers in the city:

- They solve problems, allocate resources, and integrate new ideas into the organizational culture.
- Princes manage physical resources, such as money, facilities, and technology to maximize productivity and avoid waste.
- They make sure the gifts and talents of employees are effectively utilized. Human resources is a princely role.

Sandra Herron, a banking leader, describes her priestly role this way:

“[It] has to do with managing physical resources – such as money, facilities, and technology – as well as ensuring that the gifts and talents of my employees are effectively utilized. That requires, among other things, that I be conservative in my budgeting in frugal in spending company money. I look for ways to avoid waste...But the clearest link between my work and the kingly ministry of Jesus Christ is my role as a manager or human resources.”¹

- In what ways has God entrusted you with princely authority at work? How could your stewardship of these roles or resources reveal God in you?
- Identify areas of strain or brokenness that could benefit from the attention of a wise steward. What steps could you take to apply kingly influence to this area of strain?

APPLICATION

Take a step back to consider the three roles we discussed in this series:

¹ Nouwen, Henri. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

- How do they bring purpose to your daily work?
- Many people worry that expressing their faith in the workplace will hinder their careers? How could the roles of prophet, priest, and king allow you to express your faith in work-appropriate ways?
- How could you use prayer to help you fulfill these roles? i.e. What will you pray for or ask God to do in and through you? As a group, you could set a goal to start each workday asking God to empower you to serve as His prophets, priests, and kings.)

Additional Resources:

“Why We Hate HR”, *Fast Company* <http://www.fastcompany.com/53319/why-we-hate-hr>

Not to pick on folks working in HR, but this article offers insight into the brokenness that can occur in corporate systems. As you read, look for ways a princely/kingly influence could address this brokenness to help an organization thrive.