

PRINCIPLES OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Every N.T. priest becomes a partaker of God's divine nature through the New Birth, for NATURE IS INHERITED; 2 Peter 1:3-4. Only from this INHERITANCE of God's nature, can God's character be developed. Nature is inherited, but CHARACTER IS DEVELOPED. Godly character must be developed out of that new nature, through experience, by yielding to the Holy Spirit.

A degree of separation that might suffice for the Levites (the congregation), would not be suitable for the Priests. The Priests who "offer the bread" had very high demands placed upon them. God expected that His Priests reflect His own qualities; they had to be clean, mature, clear, whole, pure, without blemish; Ephesians 5:25-27.

Leviticus 21:6-23 reveals the PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS of the O.T. Priesthood which speak to us today of SPIRITUAL TRUTHS; Col. 2:17; Heb. 8:5. These outward illustrations reflect an INWARD CONDITION. The requirements were as follows:

- A. They must be holy unto their God - They present offerings made by fire, and they offer the "bread of their God"; Lev. 21:6
- B. Must marry a Virgin – A priest can only be joined to that which is undefiled. In scripture, a "virgin" is symbolic of spiritual purity. No priest is allowed to be intimate with an unclean "harlot" system: that which sells itself, appeases the world, and therefore engages in practices of spiritual adultery; James 4:4. A prostitute requires an exchange of money or "gifts" before her services are rendered; no prostituting of the Gospel is allowed; Lev. 21:7,9, 13-15; Revelation 17.
- C. No Blemish – A blemish is symbolic of a major character flaw which does not reflect the true nature of God. A blemish speaks of a moral deformity, a "defect" which points to a faulty spiritual condition. Natural, physical defects which disqualified Aaron's O.T. priests, reveal spiritual meanings for the N.T. priesthood today;

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS WERE NOT ALLOWED FOR THE PRIESTS:

1. No Blind Man – he has lost his vision and cannot accurately see the truths of God now being revealed; he can only remember what he saw yesterday. He cannot see present truth or "recognize" the necessary ingredients in preparing the "bread" for God's people. His perception is darkened; there is no spirit of revelation enlightening the eyes of his understanding; he cannot see the glory of the Kingdom; Prov. 29:18; Job 42:5; Rev. 3:18.
2. No Lame Man – this person may have head knowledge and gifts, but he lacks the strength to walk in a demonstration of victory and holiness. Our spiritual legs must be strong and steadfast, moving forward in a progression of righteousness. A lame man must always depend upon others to carry him; he lacks the ability and the full commitment to "walk out the message". He is unable to lift up or carry others; 1 John 2:6; Heb. 12:13.
3. No Flat Nose – the nose is a "smeller" an instrument of spiritual discernment, distinguishing between purity and defilement, the authentic and the counterfeit. If the "inner witness" is not functioning properly, the individual is prone to deception; he cannot recognize truth from error. A priest must be able to discern the spirits in operation around him, and be able to "smell the battle afar off"; Job 39:25; Ps. 115:6; Matt. 24:4-5.

4. Nothing Superfluous (No Deformity) – this speaks of an undesirable, excessive “growth of flesh” in one area, to the exclusion of proper growth in other areas, resulting in a lack of balance. These abnormal “additions” apart from God’s divine order in the Body of Christ include man-made doctrines, rituals, creeds, traditions and formulas. These are unnatural, empty and fruitless; they contribute nothing to the Body of Christ or the ministry of the Holy Spirit; Ephesians 4:15-16; Galatians 3:3.

5. No Broken Foot – this injury has affected one’s ability to walk in a consistent manner; he falls easily and is continually “up and down”. He lacks stability and cannot “run the race”; one foot points in one direction and the other foot in another direction. He walks alone; he is not in step with God or with his brethren. He is not “sure footed”; he is unable to navigate through, or “walk upon the heights”. If you follow their trail (track record), their footprints are broken and inconsistent; Psalm 18:33; 115:7; Hebrews 12:1.

6. No Broken Hand – the hand speaks of relationship, fellowship and service with the brethren. A man with a broken hand cannot fully embrace others in covenant agreement (as a handshake) nor can he serve the brethren properly or have close fellowship with them. He has been hurt in his labors of ministry, and that injury prevents him from performing a wide variety of functions. Also, he cannot wield the sword of the spirit properly without injuring others; Proverbs 10:4.

7. No Crookbacked (No Hunchback) – a man without a healthy “backbone” sways and bends under pressure and trials; he lacks a strong spiritual and moral foundation. Without firm biblical principles established in one’s life, he is wishy-washy, and will be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. He is bent over, unable to stand up tall and straight for what is right. He is bound with a tendency to look downward upon the earth instead of up toward the heavens; Hebrews 12:1; Ephesians 4:14.

8. No Dwarf - this speaks of stunted spiritual growth and development; he is immature and carnal. He has not developed to full stature; he wants to be pampered and must be told what to do. He hasn’t grown in grace, and can only comprehend elementary spiritual principles. He cannot understand or see the high purposes of God; a spiritual midget cannot reach up to the altar’s “height” due to his “low stature”; 1 Cor. 3:1-2; Eph. 4:13.

9. No Blemish In The Eye – a blemish in the eyes causes a man to lose his Kingdom focus and perspective. Vision is distorted; there is a lack of clarity, resulting in blurred sight and confusion. If there is a foreign object (a spiritual cataract) in the eye, truth is not perceived correctly; vision is fuzzy and out of focus. Shadows upon the eyes indicate that “understanding is darkened” because of ignorance; Eph. 4:17-18; Matthew 7:3-5.

10. No Scurvy (No Itch) – scurvy is the result of an insufficient, unbalanced diet. Instead of dining at the King’s table, receiving solid spiritual teaching, Kingdom truth and Holy Spirit revelation, he has fed upon a steady diet of spiritual “junk food”, canned sermons, yesterday’s manna, and the “flesh pots” of men’s desires. Those with “itching ears” have a spiritual disease; they do not have an appetite for “meat”; they cannot endure or teach sound biblical doctrine; 1 Corinthians 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:3.

11. No Scabs Or Sores – a sore is an unhealed wound; a scab forms to cover an underlying internal condition. An inward uncleanness: impure thoughts, wrong motives or desires can erupt into a festering sore which can infect or contaminate the whole body. He may profess Christ but his outer character is not clean. He who seeks power and position apart from righteous, holy living and conduct brings a reproach upon the Body. Unholy practices seen and observed by others, can be contagious; 1 Corinthians 5:6-7.

12. No Broken Stones – a man with broken stones (reproductive glands) cannot produce true spiritual life. The seed does not come forth to reproduce the image of Christ, because he is spiritually sterile. He may be polished, educated, interesting or charismatic, but there is no life changing power coming forth by his words or his life. He lacks a supernatural ability to “plant the seed”, the Word of life, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit; 2 Timothy 3:5; John 6:63

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS THE REMEDY FOR EVERY BLEMISH!

Our merciful High Priest not only heals diseases of the body, but He also cleanses, sanctifies and purifies the inner spiritual condition of His people. He purges and refines His priesthood, and restores them to wholeness; Psalm 103:3; Malachi 3:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:23