

## VOCATION IS NOT THAT TECHNICAL

**A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD.** One of the most familiar phrases to come out of the Reformation is “the priesthood of all believers.” It is also one of the most misunderstood. “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. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (*1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV*) Our misunderstanding arises from confusing our belonging to this priesthood with God's call to individuals to serve in various ways with the various gifts given them. Being part of the royal priesthood is given to all who believe in Christ. All Christians are called to the royal priesthood. Each Christian is called to serve God and the Church and the neighbor in specific ways. Being in Christ through our Baptism, we stand before God without a special class of Christians mediating between man and God. Christ is the only mediator and we come before God, clothed in His righteousness. There is not a set of Christians who are closer to God than regular everyday Christians.

**ALL GOD'S CRITTERS GOT A PLACE IN THE CHOIR.** “[God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the

saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (*Ephesians 4:11-14 ESV*)

In our Lutheran understanding, every vocation is a God-given calling to serve Him. Whether performing brain surgery, mopping floors, being a house mom, providing for protection as a member of the police, fire department, or armed forces, a Christian is pleasing God and witnessing to God in what he does. That is why we thank God for all those people in our prayers along with thanking God for those who preach and teach the Gospel of Christ. This has several implications. We appreciate everyone's vocation as a calling from God. We praise God for the farmer who grows food as well as thanking God for the businessman who creates jobs or the politician who helps order our civil affairs. As individuals, we are also aware of the responsibilities of our vocation *before God*. The farmer sees his responsibility for the neighbor who needs wholesome food, for the animals who need care and protection, for the land which is a trust from God. Parents see their children as gifts from God, not as

vehicles for fulfilling personal missed opportunities at fame and glory. Children see parents as God-given protectors, guides and caretakers — not as cash cows or mere hinderances to adolescent whims.

### **IDENTITY CRISIS — WHAT'S THAT?**

There is a genuine comfort in knowing that we are called to served God in whatever honest vocation God has placed us. There is also a wonderful freedom in knowing that we don't have to be something we are not or to do something we are not called to. By giving God the glory in all we do, everything we do is shaped by our relationship to God. Every ear of corn harvested, every cut knee bandaged, every hymn played on the organ, every shell of loneliness broken by a smile, every delivery made on time ... they all point to the Lord who called us to and gave us gifts for those tasks. We do not have to be concerned that we need to do something beyond our calling in order to “be somebody.” We already belong to the royal priesthood. our lives are now being shaped as worship appropriate to the grace God has shown us in Christ. The 80 year old grandmother does not have to make citizen's arrests of speeding motorists. The pastor does not have to perform open heart surgery. The carpenter does not have to bake wedding cakes. All Christians serve God where and how He has called them. In all we do, we seek to do *Him* proud.

Everyday Life  
Where Faith Bears Fruit  
June 3, 2009

7:00 Responsive Prayer 2  
*page 285*  
Reading:  
Romans 12:1–21  
Hymn:  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
*LSB 738*

7:10 Presentation:  
Everyday Life — Where  
Faith Bears Fruit

7:55 Questions and Answers

8:15 Compline  
*page 253*  
Office Hymn:  
God, Who Made the Earth  
and Heaven  
*LSB 877*

I will also speak of  
your testimonies  
before kings and  
shall not be put to  
shame. Psalm 119:46

In the sight of God  
and all  
Christendom, we  
want to testify to  
those now living  
and those who will  
come after us.

Formula of Concord, Solid  
Declaration, Conclusion

Being Lutheran –  
Nothing to Be  
Ashamed Of!

Everyday Life  
Where Faith Bears Fruit



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