

Doctrine of the Believer-Priest

1. The specialized priesthood given to the Levites under the Old Testament economy, has been divinely expanded into the universal priesthood of every believer, based on a covenant relationship.
 - *1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

2. As a believer priest, every Christian has distinct and holy responsibilities, similar to those of the priests of the Old Testament. Consider some of the duties, which should be a delight to perform.

3. Though stated in the text of Scripture in a negative way in Malachi 2, the lessons can be stated in a positive way, so that the Christian can say, *“These things that we ought to do, we will, by the grace of God, perform. Amen.”*
 - A believer-priest should know the commandments of the LORD (Mal. 2:1).
 - A believer-priest should hear the voice of the LORD and lay it to heart, which means embrace it (Mal. 2:2).
 - A believer-priest should give glory unto the name of the LORD (Mal. 2:2).
 - A believer-priest should be able to recognize divine discipline (Mal. 2:3).
 - A believer-priest should be familiar with the covenant of life and peace (Mal. 2:5).
 - A believer-priest should fear the LORD (Mal. 2:5).
 - A believer-priest should have the law of truth in his mouth (Mal. 2:6).
 - A believer-priest should not have iniquity on his lips (Mal. 2:6).
 - A believer-priest should walk with the LORD in peace, and equity, or righteousness (Mal. 2:6).
 - A believer-priest should turn many away from iniquity, or sin (Mal. 2:6).
 - A believer-priest should protect spiritual knowledge (Mal. 2:7).
 - A believer-priest should invite others to ask them about the meaning of the Law of the Lord (Mal. 2:6).
 - A believer-priest should see himself as a messenger of the LORD of hosts (Mal. 2:7).
 - A believer –priest should never depart from the way of righteousness (Mal. 2:8).
 - A believer-priest should never cause others to stumble at the Law of the Lord (Mal. 2:8).
 - A believer-priest must not corrupt the covenant relationship (Mal. 2:8).
 - A believer-priest must always be impartial in rendering a just judgment (Mal. 2:9).
 - A believer-priest must be faithful to the marriage covenant (Mal. 2:11, 14).
 - A believer-priest must realize why God created Eve, and established marriage (Mal. 2:15).
 - A believer-priest must comprehend that sin is a violent and treacherous act, especially the sin of divorce (Mal. 2:16).

- A believer-priest must guard against dying a sin unto death (Mal. 2:12).
- A believer-priest must engage in authentic repentance (Mal. 2:13).
- A believer-priest must not become defensive when confronted with sin (Mal. 2:14).
- A believer-priest must guard the heart, or spirit, that it not deal treacherously with others, especially one's spouse (Mal. 2:16).
- A believer-priest must not weary the LORD with words (Mal. 2:17).