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## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 11/26/2017

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1 Peter 2:4-10 – “The Royal Priesthood of All Believers” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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Though Martin Luther is sometimes referred to as the father of this doctrine, the royal priesthood of all believers is a doctrine laid out in Scripture in passages such as this one in 1 Peter. Like some others, it is a doctrine that has been distorted and misunderstood at times. Luther was convicted that the church needed to recover its proper meaning. In order to do that, we need to consider:

- 1) The story of priesthood
- 2) The responsibility of priesthood
- 3) The dignity of priesthood

When properly understood, this doctrine highlights the great honor that every single Christian has – the honor of being a priest of God himself.

### Quotations

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“How we finish the statement ‘We believe in the priesthood of all believers, therefore...’ reveals a good deal about what we understand the doctrine to mean.” -Uche Anizor

“Every Christian is someone else’s priest, and we are all priests to one another.” -Martin Luther

“There is a lot more in him than you guess, and a deal more than he has any idea of himself. You may (possibly) all live to thank me yet.” -Gandalf (J.R.R. Tolkien)

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) If all believers are priests and members of the royal priesthood of all believers, then why does the church hire pastors and appoint elders? Use Scripture references to support your answer.
- 2) How would you finish Uche Anizor’s statement in the quotation section above?
- 3) What is significant about the language used in Genesis 2:15 when God is giving instructions to Adam in the garden? How else are those key words used and translated at other points in the Old Testament?
- 4) Flesh out the following chapters of the story of the priesthood of believers: Adam – Israel – Jesus – The Church – The New Creation.
- 5) How does being a priest affect our call to worship, community, and mission?
- 6) Share with the group one implication for your life this week by viewing every single believer (including yourself) as having the honor of being a priest in God’s service.