

Role of the Layman

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I. Introduction.

II. Who we are as layman.

A. God had a specific way he wanted the sacrifice to be offered and there was a specific sacrifice. (Genesis 4; Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22)

B. In Genesis everyone functioned as his own priest.

C. God instituted the professional priesthood in Exodus 28 to show the inadequacy of man's ways, to give a shadow of Christ's sacrifice and to serve the pattern of what was to come. (Hebrews 10:1-4, 19-20; 4:16)

D. Everybody is now a priest. (1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:5-6)

E. Layman are the dynamic of the New Testament.

III. What we are supposed to do.

A. Layman have the right, responsibility and privilege of representing Jesus wherever they are at. (Acts 1:8)

B. We are to live worthy of our high calling. (Ephesians 4)

C. What we are supposed to do has as much to do with what it looks like as where it came from. Whatever we look at as secular is spiritual if we are giving our lives to change that which is eternal. (John 3:6)

IV. How we are going to get it done.

A. God created us for his glory. (Isaiah 43:7)

B. God wants every believer to be complete in Christ. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:13; John 15:8, 16; Luke 19:10; 1 John 4:17)

C. We bear fruit by investing our lives in others daily. (Galatians 6)

D. If we are going to invest our lives we should have a life worth investing. (Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14)

E. To invest our lives....

1. We must be born again.

2. We should be growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. (Isaiah 37:31; Colossians 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

3. We must have a heart for people. (2 Peter 3:10)
4. We must be willing to pay the price. (Isaiah 43:4)
5. We must invest wisely. (1 Corinthians 4:2; Ephesians 4:11-12)

F. We are hindered by.

1. A lack of understanding of our calling.
2. A lack of understanding of what God expects from us.
3. A lack of training to know how to do it. (Matthew 25)
 - a. We will be accountable for our lives.
 - b. We should look for help.
4. Laziness.
5. A lack of motivation.
6. Failure to believe that God can use you. (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

V. Conclusion.

Application questions:

1. How would you explain the role of the layman in the ministry?

2. What do you need to do to enhance your ministry as a layman?

3. What hindrances have kept you from layman ministry? What will you do to overcome these?
