

Becoming a holy minister of the gospel.

(A sermon to help us understand how important it is to allow the Holy Spirit to continuously transform you so that we can become holy, blameless and spotless ministers of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ)

A SERMON DELIVERED AT THE HAENERTSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN HAENERTSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA 6th March 2016

Dr. Ian F. Loughor-Clarke
admin@haenertsburgchristianchurch.co.za

Well good morning to you all and to all those viewers on YouTube and those that are listening on iTunes or podcast. It is such an honour and privilege to have you connecting and sharing this time with us.

I trust and pray that many of you are having awesome breakthrough sessions in your time alone with the Holy Spirit and that you are pursuing Him like never before. Remember that He says that if we seek Him we will find Him. So keep seeking and keep knocking and keep believing that He wants to speak to you and you will have awesome encounters with the Holy Spirit.

Pray:

Let us now pray.

For those of you that are not aware of this fact I thought that I should let you know that I am royalty and that could be news to some of you and those of you listening via YouTube you are so welcome. You hear correctly when I said that I am royalty.

You see I'm in this world, but I'm not a part of this world or off this world, because it's like I am an alien. The reason for this is that I belong to a holy nation.

You see I do not belong to myself or to you or to this congregation or to this country or to this world, but I belong to God. The reason for this is that God chose me to be a son in His house.

And this makes me royalty and this makes me part of a holy nation and so I belonging to God and nothing and no one else.

May I ask what about you?

1 Peter 2:9

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.¹

So how about you can you with great confidence say, you are:

A chosen people,
A royal priesthood,
A holy nation,
Belonging to God,

I think this means I can always hold my head up high even when people ridicule my belief and love for God. You see we are son of the Most High God and representative and ambassador of God.

MY TITLE: Becoming a holy minister of the gospel

1 Peter 2:1–5

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.²

1. You are to rid yourself of all ungodliness.

1 Peter 2:1–5

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

You see it is my personal responsibility to ensure that I get rid of all these different sinful behaviours in my life. We need to understand that it says rid yourself, so we need to get rid of this because it is a choice that we have to individually make and not one someone else can make for us. Yes we can ask the Holy Spirit to us and give us strength and help transform and renew the way we think because out of the heart the mind speaks.

Let us have a look at the things that are mentioned that we should get rid off:

Malice – hate, vengefulness.

Deceit – misleading people, treachery.

A man in Amsterdam feels the need to confess, so he goes to his priest.

¹ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. (1984). (1 Pe 2:9). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

² *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. (1984). (1 Pe 2:1–5). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

"Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. During world war II, I hid a refugee in my attic."

"Well," answers the priest, "that's not a sin."

"But I made him agree to pay me 20 guilders for every week he stayed."

"I admit that wasn't good, but you did it for a good cause."

"Oh, thank you, Father, that makes me feel a little better and eases my mind. I have one more question."

"What is that, my son?"

"Do I have to tell him the war is over?"

Hypocrisy – deceitfulness, pretense, insincerity.

Envy – jealous of another, resentment.

Slander – scandalous remark, defamation.

Let us make sure that we rid ourselves of all ungodliness.

2. You are to crave more of God and His Word.

1 Peter 2:1–5

² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

We are all to choose and ask God for an unquenchable thirst and craving and desire for more of Him and greater knowledge and understanding of Him. We need to also ask God for a greater love for His Scriptures, which is pure spiritual milk. You see we do not want just any spiritual milk because there is just so much hypocrisy and incorrect doctrine that is preached that it is frightening. So let us desire pure spiritual food and not just any food.

1 Corinthians 3:1–3

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Evidence that we are still infants is when there is jealousy and quarreling among us. This is what you find from worldly people and should not be found at all in the church. If you are convicted then repent and stop this with immediate effect so you can go on to greater maturity.

Hebrews 5:14

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. ³

Do you see there is training involved to hearing from God and know what the Scriptures say. How can we know the will of God with out His Word? There is just not way and that is why so many people have gone into error.

³ *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. (1984). (Heb 5:14). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

May we all choose to set a strict training program for ourselves that we can get to know God completely and are then able to discern good from evil.

3. You are to continually taste and see that God is awesome.

1 Peter 2:3

³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

I think we have all hear present tasted and seen that the Lord is good. We need to understand that you and I can loose the taste of anything quite quickly and so we need to continually keep thirsting and continually keep tasting. When however you go through a valley in your life just remember that God is there and remember that times you have experienced and tasted that our God is an awesome God.

Psalms 34:8

⁸ Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. ⁴

Tasting needs to take place daily so let us make a continuous choose to enjoy our Saviors and Lord.

4. You are to remember that Jesus is rejected by man, but not God.

1 Peter 2:4

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—

You get many people in this world that scorn your and my belief in God. Some extended family members think I am stupid because I believe in God and that I am gullible. The difference is that I have more than just tasted and seen that the Lord is good and am no longer ignorant of the Lord's goodness.

Jesus was, is and will always be the chosen of God whether man rejects Him or not and He will remain precious to God forever no matter what man thinks or does not think.

Just like you and I are precious to God and are a chosen nation, a royal priesthood.

I don't care if people reject me or even for the matter reject Jesus as the Saviour of the world. I don't let it change my security in Him and my relationship with Him. I certainly feel sorry for some one that rejects God like some of my extended family, but it does not cause me to waver in my love for God not for one split second. My sorrow for people that reject God is the loss that they have in not knowing God and also the fearful judgment to come for those that choose not to believe.

The Atheist and the Bear

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods.

'What majestic trees!

What powerful rivers!

⁴ *The Holy Bible: New International Version.* (1984). (Ps 34:8). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

What beautiful animals!', he said to himself.

As he continued walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes. Turning to look, he saw a 7 foot grizzly charging towards him.

He ran as fast as he could up the path. Looking over his shoulder he saw that the bear was closing in on him. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster.

He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear raising his paw to take a swipe at him.

At that instant the atheist cried out: 'Oh my God help me!...'

Time stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

It was then that a bright light shone upon the man and a voice came out of the sky saying:

'You deny my existence for all of these years, teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?'

The atheist looked directly into the light.

'It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you make the BEAR a Christian?'

'Very well,' said the voice. The light went out, and the sounds of the forest resumed.

And then the bear lowered his paw, bowed his head and spoke: 'Lord, bless this food which I am about to receive, Amen.'

You see if God is for me then who on this planet can be against me.

I would rather be rejected by all of mankind than be rejected by the one and only true God.

So those of you that do social media.

You have one new friend request from Jesus! Do you CONFIRM or IGNORE

5. You are being built up as spiritual, holy ministers of the gospel.

1 Peter 2:5

⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Is your body the temple of the Holy Spirit and a spiritual house where He feels and knows He is welcome all the time? Do you see that we are called to be holy which means that we are set apart. But it carries on and says a holy priesthood meaning that all of us are called to the ministry of spreading the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ insuring the truth of His love with this world.

May we offer sacrifices that are spiritual and honouring and acceptable to God and nothing less.

Let us read the passage that I read right the beginning to see if you can now relate to this amazing passage.

1 Peter 2:9–10

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,

that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Would you say with me the following:

Thank you Lord Jesus that you have
Chosen me, and that I am
Royalty and a
Priest to this world.
Thank you that I am part of a holy nation – your church, and that I
Belonging to You.

Re-cap:

- 1. You are to rid yourself of all ungodliness.**
- 2. You are to crave more of God and His Word.**
- 3. You are to continually taste and see that God is awesome.**
- 4. You are to remember that Jesus is rejected by man, but not God.**
- 5. You are being built up as spiritual, holy ministers of the gospel.**

If you have never really accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, would you do it right now? Do not delay or put it off. If you would like to receive Christ by faith, pray this simple prayer in your heart:

Dear Lord, I acknowledge that I am a sinner. I believe Jesus died for my sins on the cross, and rose again on the third day. I repent of my sins. By faith I receive the Lord Jesus as my Savior. You promised to save me, and I believe You, because You are God and cannot lie. I believe right now that the Lord Jesus is my personal Savior, and that all my sins are forgiven through His precious blood. I thank You, dear Lord, for saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you prayed that prayer, God heard you and saved you. I personally want to welcome you to the family of God and rejoice with you.

To receive this sermon, log on to www.haenertsburgchristianchurch.co.za and can find the notes and Power Point under downloads. You can then listen to it or download it via iTunes to your device free of charge.

This sermon was preached by Dr. Ian Loughor-Clarke at Haenertsburg Christian Church on the 6 March January 2015. (c) Dr. Ian F. Loughor-Clarke, Haenertsburg Christian Church. For more sermons from Ian go to <http://www.haenertsburgchristianchurch.co.za> Except where otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the *International Version Bible*, Copyright © 1985 by The Zondervan Corporation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
