

b. Contentment (Hebrews 13:5-8, etc.) Not in the sense of idleness or sloth but in realizing that God has provided for us perfectly in Christ and that we are willing to have our fullness in Him. The total lot of the believer is one of spiritual success and continuity. The Lord will never leave him...in practice he should show contentedness and satisfaction with the Lord. But in this part of our discussion we are more concerned with the position than the practice and the priestly position before men is one of contentment in the Person and Work provided by the Lord Jesus.

c. Identification (Hebrews 13:9-14) As He has been identified with us so we are identified with Him. Beyond the camp of the religious orders and prevailing opinions, we are priests to God and man with the hope of a city beyond this. There is no other title, name, or privilege that is so meaningful as the one we bear through faith and belief in Christ.

2. The character of priestly service before men.

The total picture of it may be identified through Hebrews 3:15...16 and in particular the phrase "to do good and communicate forget not." In this portion of the Word, the priestly office before both God and man is seen in a side-by-side relationship. As one offers the sacrifice of praise, the giving of the fruit of his lips, so he turns and reveals more fully to those about him his priestly character through the services of "doing good" and "communicating." The former has in view all those useful services gleaned from the Scripture while the latter sees the sharing of life-goods in a special sense.

a. Prayer...one of the functions of the Old Testament priest and something that should not be forgotten in our age. We pray for one another as a simple part of "doing good." Our understanding is that this is the way in which the Lord is pleased to honor our services in behalf of others. He hears and answers our prayers. It is an intercessory priestly function.