

Without over-simplifying the matter too much, we may note that the Old Testament priest, before man, did basically three things. 1) He instructed in the will and program of God, especially as it served the purpose of worship. 2) He interceded before God for man particularly in matters of prayer and spiritual desire. (3 He sought to bring men to a fuller understanding of God's Word and became (along with the prophets), a spokesman of God's true words to the nation. He had a peculiar burden in representing both God and man together...and apart and in this was something of a mediator. In our age, of course, Christ is the sole mediator on the total side of the ledger. But there is a sense in which every believer has a mediator's role as he is a priest. To examine that role more fully in both position and practice is the aim of this discussion.

B. Discussion

We must remember that the believer has the position, no matter how well or how poorly he fills it. No concept of probationary priesthood is found in the New Testament.

1. The Character of the priestly position before men.

a. Love..(Hebrews 13:1) This is one of the larger concepts on life in the New Testament. Love is much spoken of. The term in this passage is particularly that of "brotherly love." It is the more apparent, more easily tested of the love concepts. The command is that it is to continue. Remember that all believers are priests and the ongoing nature of brotherly love is the duty of all. It is a position or posture of being loving. One's love of the brethren should stand out in his movements among men.