

# Priest

Class on Priesthood

For I, Jacob, and my brother Joseph, had been consecrated priests, and teachers of this people by the hand of Nephi. And we did **magnify our office** unto the Lord, taking upon us **the responsibility**, answering the sins of the people upon **our own heads**, if we did not teach them the word of God with **all diligence**; Wherefore, by laboring with our mights, their blood might not come upon our garments; otherwise, their blood would come upon our garments, and we would **not** be found spotless at the last day. [Jacob 1:18-20]

## DUTY OF PRIESTHOOD

**4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **4:12** For the **perfecting of the saints**, for the **work of the ministry**, for the **edifying of the body of Christ**; **4:13** Till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto **a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **4:14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **4:15** But speaking the truth **in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ; **4:16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which **every joint supplieth**, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. [Ephesians 4:11-16]

# Duty of Priesthood

**83:21a** Therefore, let **every** man stand in his own office, and labor in his own calling; and let not the head say unto the feet it hath no need of the feet, for without the feet how shall the body be able to stand? **83:21b** Also, the body hath need of **every member**, that all may be **edified together**, that the system may be **kept perfect**. [DC 83:21]

**17:6a** And we know that **all men** must repent and believe on the name of Jesus Christ and worship the Father in his name, and endure in faith on his name to the end, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God. **17:6b** And we know that justification through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is just and true; **17:6c** and we know, also, that sanctification through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is just and true, to all those who love and serve God with all their mights, minds, and strength; **17:6d** **but there is a possibility** that man may fall from grace and depart from the living God. **17:6e** Therefore let the church **take heed and pray always**, lest they fall into temptations; yea, and even let those who are **sanctified**, take heed also. [DC 17:6a-e]

# DUTIES OF A PRIEST

**17:10a** The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort, and baptize, and administer the sacrament. **17:10b** and visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret, and attend to all family duties: **17:10c** and he may also ordain other priests, teachers, and deacons; **17:10d** and he is to take the lead of meetings when there is no elder present, but when there is an elder present he is only to preach, teach, expound, exhort, and baptize, and visit the house of each member, exhorting them to pray vocally and in secret, and attend to all family duties. **17:10e** In all these duties the priest is to assist the elder if occasion requires. [DC 17:10a-e]

The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort....

- **Preach** – to pronounce a public discourse on a religion subject, or from a subject, or from a text of Scripture [Isa 61:1, 1 Cor 1:19-24]
- **Teach** – to instruct; to inform; to communicate to another the knowledge of that of which he was before ignorant. To deliver any doctrine, art, principles or words for instruction [Luke 11:1]
- **Expound** – to explain, to lay open the meaning; to clear of obscurity; to interpret; as, to expound a text of scripture; to expound a law [Mark 4:26-27]
- **Exhort** – to incite by words or advice; to animate or urge by arguments to a good deed or to any laudable conduct or course of action (a challenge to live for God, or a call to action) [Alma 5:38]



The priest's duty is to baptize....

- **5:22** And again the Lord called others, and said unto them likewise; and he gave unto them power to baptize. **5:23** And he said unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. **5:24** Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize them: Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water, and in my name shall ye baptize them. **5:25** And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say, calling them by name, saying: Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. **5:26** And then shall ye immerse them in the water, and come forth again out of the water. [3 Nephi 5:22-26; DC 17:21a-d]

The priest's duty is to baptize....

- **17:18a** The duty of the members after they are received by baptism: **17:18b** The elders **or priests** are to have a sufficient time **to expound** all things concerning the church of Christ to their understanding, **previous** to their partaking of the sacrament, and being confirmed by the laying on of the hands of the elders; so that all things may be **done in order**. [DC 17:18a-b]

**13:27** And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, if all is done? [2 Nephi 13:27]

The priest's duty is to administer the sacrament....

- **17:22a** It is expedient that the church meet together often to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus; **17:22b** and the elder or priest shall administer it... [DC 17:22a-b]



The priest's duty is to visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret, and attend to all family duties....

- **13:15** For I have given you **an example**, that ye should do as I have done to you. **13:16** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **13:17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. [John 13:15-17]
- Examples of home ministry from Matthew
  - **8:14** And when Jesus was come into Peter's **house**...
  - **9:29** And when Jesus came into the ruler's **house**...
  - **9:34** and when he [Jesus] was come into the **house**...
  - **13:35** Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the **house**...
  - **26:14** I will keep the passover at thy **house** with my disciples

The priest's duty is to visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret, and attend to all family duties....

- **7:23** And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of **one heart** and of **one mind**, and **dwelt in righteousness**; and there were no poor among them. [Genesis 7:23]
- **3:5** For if a man know not how to rule his own house, **how** shall he take care of the church of God? [1 Timothy 3:5]

## **Zion Begins in the Home**

The priest's duty is to visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret, and attend to all family duties....

- **3:18** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. **3:19** Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. **3:20** Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. **3:21** Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged [Colossians 3:18-21]
- **68:4c** And they shall also teach their children to pray, and to walk uprightly before the Lord. [DC 68:4c]

The priest may also ordain other priests, teachers, and deacons...

- **3:1** The manner which the disciples, who were called the elders of the church, ordained priests and teachers. **3:2** After they had prayed unto the Father in the name of Christ, they laid their hands upon them, and said, In the name of Jesus Christ I ordain you to be a priest; (or if he be a teacher;) I ordain you to be a teacher, to preach repentance and remission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Amen. **3:3** And after this manner did they ordain priests and teachers, according to the gifts and callings of God unto men; and they ordained them by the power of the Holy Ghost, which was in them. [Moroni 3:1-3]

The priest's duty is to take the lead of meetings when there is no elder present...

- **11:17** And now Alma was their high priest, he being the founder of their church. **11:18** And it came to pass that **none** received authority to preach or to teach, **except** it were by him from God. **11:19** Therefore he consecrated all their priests, and all their teachers, and none were consecrated except they were just men. **11:20** Therefore they did **watch over** their people, and did **nourish them** with things pertaining to righteousness. [Mosiah 11:17-20]
- **4:1** And now it came to pass that after Alma had made an end of speaking unto the people of the church, which was established in the city of Zarahemla, he ordained **priests** and elders, by laying on his hands according to the order of God, **to preside and watch over the church.** [Alma 4:1]



In all these duties the priest is to **assist the elder** if occasion requires...

- **18:14** And when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? Why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?... **18:17** And Moses' father-in-law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is **not good**. **18:18** Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee; for this thing is **too heavy for thee**; thou art **not** able to perform it thyself alone. [Exodus 18:14-18]

In all these duties the priest is to **assist the elder** if occasion requires...

- **18:19** Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee...**18:20** And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. **18:21** Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens...**18:23** If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. [Exodus 18:19-23]

# ADDITIONAL DUTIES

The priest's may also perform the marriage sacrament

- **111:1a** According to the custom of all civilized nations, marriage is regulated by laws and ceremonies: **111:1b** therefore we believe, that all marriages in this Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints should be solemnized in a public meeting, or feast, prepared for that purpose: **111:1c** and that the solemnization should be performed by a presiding high priest, high priest, bishop, elder, **or** **priest**, not even prohibiting those persons who are desirous to get married, of being married by other authority. [DC 111:1a-c]

The priest is a standing minister but may also travel

- **83:20a** Therefore, take with you those who are ordained unto the lesser priesthood, and send them before you to make appointments, and to prepare the way, and to fill appointments that you yourselves are not able to fill....**83:22** And, behold, the high priests should travel, and also the elders, and also the *lesser priests*; but the deacons and teachers should be appointed to watch over the church, to be standing ministers unto the church. [DC 83:20a and 22]

# MINISTERING OF ANGELS

**104:10** The power and authority of the lesser, or Aaronic, priesthood is, to hold the keys of the ministering of angels, and to administer in outward ordinances--the letter of the gospel--the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, agreeably to the covenants and commandments. [DC 104:10]

- **1:7** And of the angels he saith, Angels are *ministering spirits*. **1:14** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? [Hebrews 1:7 and 14]
- **4:11** And now, Jesus knew that John was cast into prison, and *he sent angels*, and, behold, they came and **ministered** unto him. [Matthew 4:11]

- Minister – a servant that acts under the authority of God
- Administer – to act as a servant of God
- Ministering – serving under superior authority
- Administering – executing, putting into effect, dispensing

<b>Melchisedec Priesthood</b>	<b>Aaronic Priesthood</b>
Has the authority from God to administer through the laying on of hands.	Has the authority from God to call for the ministering of angels through prayer.



And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by **holy angels**, sent forth from the presence of **God**; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost. [Genesis 5:44]

Person	Scripture	Description
Adam	Genesis 4:6-8	Adam is taught of Jesus Christ, to repent and call upon God in the name of the Son for evermore.
Lot	Genesis 19:1-20	The angels command Lot to leave the city of Sodom.
Elijah	1 Kings 19:4-8	An angel comforts Elijah and feeds him.
Daniel	Daniel 8:15-25 Daniel 9:20-23	The angel Gabriel comforts Daniel and interprets his vision. Gabriel comes again to Daniel because of his prayer and the commandment of God to open Daniel's understanding.
Zechariah	Zechariah 1:7-13	An angel interprets Zechariah's vision and offers a prayer to the Lord.
Joseph	Matthew 2:1-8 Matthew 3:13; 19-20	An angel appears to Joseph, tells him to not fear, for Mary is carrying the Son of God. An angel commands Joseph to take his family into Egypt, and then commands him again when they should return.
Jesus	Psalms 91:11-12 Mark 1:10-11	God gives his angels charge over Jesus, to bear him up Angels ministered to Christ while he was in the wilderness
Nephi	1 Nephi 1:92-96 1 Nephi 3:62 2 Nephi 3:39	An angel protects Nephi and commands him to return to Jerusalem An angel shows Nephi Jesus Christ 600 years before his birth Angels have ministered to Nephi in response to his prayers
Jacob	Jacob 2:7	Angels ministered to Jacob
King Benjamin	Mosiah 1:93	King Benjamin speaks of Christ's birth, which knowledge he received by an angel
Nephi and Lehi	Helaman 2:99-113	Angels appear to Nephi and Lehi while the Holy Ghost encircles them in a pillar of fire. The angels minister to them and the Lamanites in the prison.

**9:21** Yea, while I was **speaking in prayer**, even the man Gabriel...touched me about the time of the evening oblation. **9:22** And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. **9:23** At the **beginning of thy supplications** the **commandment came forth**, and I am come to show thee. [Daniel 9:21-23]

**7:30** Behold, I say unto you, Nay; **neither** have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. **7:31** For behold, they are **subject unto him**, to minister according to the word of his command, shewing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind, in every form of godliness. [Moroni 7:30-31]

The office of the angels ministry [Moroni 7:32-33]:

- to call men to repentance,
- to fulfill and to do the covenants of God, and
- to prepare the way for the children of men through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**7:41** Behold I say to you, Nay, for it is **by faith** that miracles are wrought; and it is **by faith** that angels appear and minister unto men; **7:42** Wherefore if these things have ceased, **wo** be unto the children of men, for it is **because of unbelief...** [Moroni 7:41-42]

**4:1** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **4:2** With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; **4:3** Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, **4:4** In one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **4:5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **4:6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. **4:7** But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.  
[Ephesians 4:1-7]

## CONCLUSION