

Introduction

1. God's holiness requires that His church be holy ([1 Pt. 1:15-16](#))
 - a. The church is the body of Christ ([Col. 1:18](#))
 - i. Christ is the Holy One ([Acts 3:14](#))
 - b. Holiness is not only possible, but also required if we wish to see God ([Heb. 12:14](#))
2. An examination of the church and holiness is in order
 - a. The church is a holy priesthood
 - b. The church is a holy nation

The Church is a Holy Priesthood

1. Jesus Christ is the Holy High Priest ([Heb. 3:1](#), [7:26-28](#))
2. Under the Old Law, the priests came from the tribe of Levi of the order of Aaron ([Heb. 7:5](#), [11](#))
 - a. The priesthood has been changed and so has the law ([Heb. 7:12](#))
3. Every Christian is not just a priest, but must be a holy priest ([1 Pt. 2:5](#))
 - a. This is contrary to Catholic teaching that only certain trained men can be priests
 - b. Instead of fleshly sacrifices, the Christian offers spiritual sacrifices to God which is directly related to our worship ([Mt. 4:10](#); [Jn. 4:20-24](#); [Heb. 12:28](#); cf. [Phil. 4:18](#); [Heb. 13:15-16](#))
 - i. Holy men are to lead in worship ([1 Tim. 2:8](#); cf. "him that is godly" [Ps. 4:3](#) = "Holy One" [Ps. 16:10](#))
 - ii. Not just anyone can approach God in worship acceptably ([Num. 16:5](#))
 - iii. If holiness is lacking in worship, tragedy occurs ([Lev. 10:1-3](#))

The Church is a Holy Nation

1. Israel of old was to be God's holy people ([Ex. 19:6](#))
 - a. They often failed at this intent (cf. [Ex. 32](#))
2. Today, God's holy people is the church ([1 Pt. 2:9](#))
 - a. Which church? Just one! ([Eph. 1:22-23](#), [4:4](#))
 - b. The church of Christ is the Israel of God ([Gal. 6:16](#))
3. The church has been called out of darkness [wickedness; sin; ignorance] and into Christ's marvelous light
 - a. This demands holiness for light is set apart from darkness ([2 Cor. 6:14-7:1](#); cf. [Ezek. 22:26](#); [Lev. 10:8-11](#))
 - b. Tragedy comes to those who go back to the darkness ([2 Pt. 2:20-22](#))

Conclusion

1. Our hearts must be dedicated to the Lord God ([1 Pt. 3:15](#))
 - a. We are set apart for His use!
2. This world is not going to last ([2 Pt. 3:10](#))
 - a. Holy living now will see to it that we have eternal life later ([2 Pt. 3:11-18](#))