

# **Laymen: Biblical and Historical Perspective**

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## I. Introduction.

## II. Laymen from a biblical perspective.

A. God had a specific way he wanted the sacrifice to be offered and there was a specific sacrifice that was to be offered. (Genesis 4; Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22)

B. In Genesis everyone functioned as his own priest.

C. God instituted the professional priesthood in Exodus 20 to show the inadequacy of man's ways, to give a shadow of Christ's sacrifice and to serve the pattern of what was to come. (Hebrews 10:1-4; 1 Samuel 15:23)

D. Everybody is now a priest. (Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:5-6; Acts 1:8)

## III. What has happened historically regarding laymen.

A. The role of laymen was diminished in church history.

B. The Reformation argued that laymen have the right, responsibility and privilege of representing Jesus wherever they are at.

C. Laymen began the modern missionary movement.

D. What we are supposed to do has as much to do with what it looks like as where it came from. (John 3:6)

E. Whatever we look at as secular is spiritual if we are giving our lives to change that which is eternal.

## IV. What laymen are supposed to be doing.

A. God created us for his glory. (Isaiah 43:7)

B. God wants every believer to be complete in Christ. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:13; John 15:8, 16; Luke 19:10; 1 John 4:17; John 20:21)

C. The pastor's job is to equip the laymen to do the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11)

## V. How laymen can do what they are supposed to be doing.

### A. Commitment.

1. We must realize that every day we are investing our lives.

2. Everybody serves someone in some way.

B. If we are going to invest our lives we should have a life worth investing. (Psalm 12:1; 2 Timothy 2:21; John 12:31)

C. To invest our lives....

1. We must be born again.
2. We should be growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. (Isaiah 37:31; John 14:23; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Colossians 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
3. We must have a heart for people. (2 Peter 3:10; Luke 21:33)
4. We must be willing to pay the price. (Isaiah 43:4)
5. We must invest wisely. (1 Corinthians 4:2; Matthew 25)

D. We are hindered by.

1. Fear.
2. Foolishness.
3. Laziness.

E. We should seek help—either a person or an organization.

**Application questions:**

1. How would you explain the role of the layman in the ministry?

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2. What do you need to do to enhance your ministry as a layman?

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3. What hindrances have kept you from layman ministry? What will you do to overcome these?

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