

The Priesthood of All Believers and Vocation

One of the most important aspects of the Reformation was that it broke down the sacred/secular divide of medieval Catholicism. The idea of the priesthood of all believers changed the nature of the clergy, and contributed to the end of clerical celibacy, the centrality of the family, and the idea that all work was a sacred calling, not just the priesthood.

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I. Changing Ideas About the Vocation

A. Catholic Concepts of the Clergy

1. Vocation

2. Role of the Priest

3. Sacraments *ex opere operato*

4. Celibacy

B. The Priesthood of All Believers: 1 Pet. 2:9

II. Implications

A. All Legitimate Occupations as Sacred Calling

1. New Concept of Vocation

2. No Sacred/Secular Divide

B. Changing View of the Pastor

1. Role in Community

2. “Marriage is the most religious state” (Luther, Comm. 1 Cor. 7)

C. Marriage and Family

1. Marriage as Norm

2. Father as Pastor

D. The Cultural Mandate