Everyone who believes on Jesus Christ is born again by a spiritual birth into the kingdom of God and becomes a priest to God at the moment of faith - John 3:3-18; Revelations 1:5-6.

Now in this present age, the church age or age of grace as it is called, God also has a priesthood. This priesthood is also by divine appointment, not by man’s appointment. By His apostles He has clearly revealed to us. He will on how one enters this New Testament priesthood and what kind of sacrifices the New Testament priest is to offer to God. From John 3:3-18 with Revelation 1:5-6 we see that everyone who believes on Jesus Christ is born again by a spiritual birth into the kingdom of God and becomes a priest to God at the moment of faith. All believers, together, are now a kingdom of priests to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God - Revelation 5:8-10, 1 Peter 2:1-9, especially verses 5 and 9. Verse 5 tells us that as Christians we are living stones being built up as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood. As Christians we are so closely identified and united with Christ that His very life exists in us. We share in or partake in His life - Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:7; 2 Peter 1:4; Colossians 3:4. God sets each of us in place and integrates us with one another and with Christ to form the body of Christ, a holy priesthood - 1 Corinthians 12:13; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 2:5. Notice as kind of an aside here the contrast between the Old and the New in the Old Testament, Israel was God’s chosen earthly people with a priesthood which only included one of the twelve tribes and was entered into by a physical birth. The priests’ consecration to God included a physical washing and their duty was to offer physical sacrifices to God - Leviticus 1:1-6; 8:6-36; Numbers 16:40; 18:7. In the New Testament, the church is formed as God’s heavenly people and given every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. The church joins both Jew and Gentiles into one body. It is a royal and holy priesthood which is entered into by a spiritual birth and includes every member. Every New Testament believer-priest is consecrated to God by a spiritual washing with Christ’s blood to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God - Ephesians 2:13; 26; Colossians 3:1-4; Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:5. Do you see the significance? In Christ, as New Testament priests, we have an infinitely higher position, possession, and calling than the Old Testament priesthood. Consider this carefully my friend. It is fascinating, especially since it is conditioned upon the obedience of God’s Son who did not fail and cannot fail - 2 Timothy 2:13; John 17:4; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Malachi 3:6. We enter into the pure beauty of Christ’s Person and work by faith, believing on Him and His work not our own - Romans 4:5; Hebrews 4:2.

Just as the Old Testament priesthood offered up specific sacrifices to God, so do we as a New Testament priesthood. Romans 12:1 tells us that we are to offer ourselves to God as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God. This is our reasonable service or spiritual worship to Him. What always comes with the idea of offering a sacrifice is that the sacrifice is no longer that of the offerer once offered. Once offered it is wholly that of the one it is offered to. To offer ourselves is to agree with and live in light of the fact that I am no longer my own, but I am Yours Lord - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. My will is no longer mine but Yours Lord - John 6:38, 17:4. The members of my body are now to be used for righteousness because they are Yours and You are righteous - Romans 6:13; 8:1-3; John 21:21. It is no longer my own desires, goals, and rights that I pursue and defend but rather Yours since mine have been offered up - Philippians 2:5-8; Ephesians 5:2. The first Old Testament priestly sacrifice mentioned in Leviticus is the burnt offering. God’s command was that the burnt offering was to be entirely consumed on the altar. It all went up to God in the sweet smelling aroma of obedience. This offering pictures a life wholly devoted and given to God for His pleasure. According to Romans 12:1, as a New Testament priest to God, we become the offerer and the offering just as Jesus did. We offer ourselves and God is delighted to receive us in Christ a perfect sacrifice. For in Christ we are blameless, righteous, and entirely accepted by God - 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:6. This is great grace isn’t it! He makes us fit in Christ and then pleads with us to present ourselves as a living sacrifice. In Christ we meet all the qualifications of an
We are to offer ourselves to God as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God. This is our reasonable service or spiritual worship to Him - Romans 12:1.

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he sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips, that gives thanks to His Name is also our spiritual sacrifice - Hebrews 13:15. This relates to the first sacrifice I mentioned in that as we offer ourselves our lips are now His to praise to Him to glorify Him, to speak for Him, and to make Him known. Paul said, “We believe and therefore we speak” about Jesus - 2 Corinthians 4:13. 1 Peter 2 says that we are a “royal priesthood... that we may proclaim the excellencies of Him whose Name is JESUS” - 1 Peter 2:9. We are the “living sacrifice” that glorifies Him. So, if we are murmuring complain or gossiping we are not fulfilling our priestly duty. As believer-priests we have access to God making possible our prayers, which are a sweet smelling aroma going up to Him - Ephesians 5:8, 1 Peter 2:2. To offer them as a sacrifice of praise, according to the will of God, is pleasing to Him - Ephesians 5:9. Thus, to offer a prayer or praise that is not pleasing to Him is sin - Ephesians 5:5.

We offer this spiritual sacrifice that lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven which are eternal and far greater value than all the treasures on earth - Matthew 6:19-20. However, as we offer, we need to be mindful that God is also concerned with the attitude with which we share. He loves a cheerful giver - 2 Corinthians 9:7. So let us make the most of every opportunity to benefit others, especially those in the household of faith - Galatians 6:9-10.

As New Testament priests who sow the gospel seed, we offer up the entire harvest as a spiritual sacrifice to God - John 15:16; Romans 15:16.

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n closing, I would like to say that the Lord looks for those who are wholly devoted to Him so that He can strongly support them - 2 Chronicles 16:9. He knows whether we are fulfilling our priestly duties and offering up the spiritual sacrifices - Revelation 1:19. He is a jealous God. Therefore, we should not offer what is rightfully His to another - Exodus 20:5a, 22:20, Hebrews 12:5-11. He even knows the thoughts and intents of our heart as we offer - 1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 139 especially verse 1. In the light of the kingdom we are receiving and God Whom we are serving we should serve with reverence and godly fear - Hebrews 12:28. He does not forget our labor of love which we have done in His Name, and He is soon returning with His reward - Hebrews 6:10, Revelation 22:12.

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