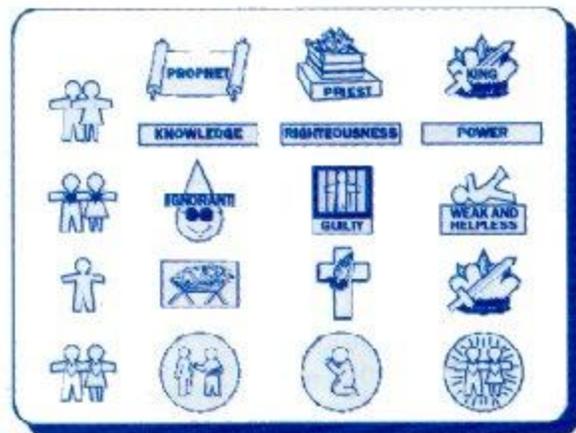




Prophets, Priests and Kings in our Homes

As our "Covenantal Parenting Conferences" are being taught across the country, many parents are excited about the model of Prophet, Priest and King we use. If people are asked, "What offices has Christ?", many of them will know the answer from the Children's Catechism (taken from the Westminster Standards) and our Series K: **Prophets, Priests, Kings and Me** (all of our series are taken from the "Catechism for Young Children" which parallels the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Standards).



1. Christ is a Prophet because He teaches us the will of God. Just as the prophets of old were carriers of the Word of God, so the Word became flesh and lived among us. WE need Christ as prophet because we are ignorant.
2. Christ is a Priest because He died for our sins and pleads with God for us. He has become our mediator and intercessor. We need Christ as a priest because we are guilty.
3. Christ is King because He rules over us. and defends us. He is our great King, protector, sustainer and Lord. We need Him as a King because we are weak and helpless.

As covenantal parents we understand that Christ has given us an excellent example of how we can assume these roles (in a much reduced manner) within our own households. Let us look quickly at the duties of

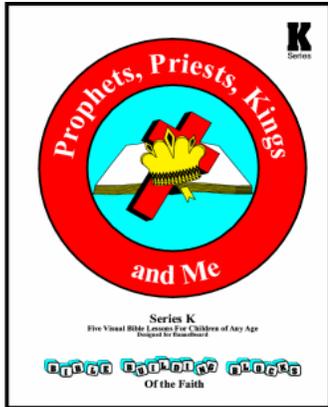
these offices and how as parents we can fulfill the responsibility of them in our homes.

Our children are born "ignorant" to the ways of the Lord. As fathers and mothers we fulfill the role of prophet in our homes in the following ways:

1. By declaring the truth to our children. Parents are the chief spokesmen in their lives. Parents need to know, therefore, what the truth is in order to speak it. If we as parents are ignorant of Scripture, then little can be transferred. Sadly, often the parents mistakenly turn to "professionals" outside the home to fulfill this duty when it is primarily theirs (Ephesians 6:3).
2. By exhorting our children to obey the truth. We observe prophets, continually calling the rebellious Israelites to turn from their wicked ways and to follow "Yahweh" God. Our children must be encouraged to follow Christ. "If you love me, keep my commandments," He says in His last discussion with His disciples prior to his arrest and execution (John 14:15)
3. By rebuking (or admonishing) and enforcing discipline. Discipline must be appropriately carried out by parents when our children are found in disobedience. Nathan's role in David's sin with Bathsheba is clearly shown as going beyond calling David to repentance but in delivering God's punishment (2 Samuel 12:14), as Samuel did with Saul (I Samuel 13:13; I Samuel 15:23-24).

As fathers and mothers, we fulfill the role of priest in our homes in the following ways:

1. By making our homes little churches. We can make them places where reading God's Word and praying are a daily activity. IN 1999, one of CMI's newsletters outlined the "COVENANT TRAINING IN THE HOME" (look in the archives section of the web page for it!) Children need to see their parents coming before the throne of grace, daily. Their Christianity must be a living, daily faith for them, not a "religious duty" once a week in church.
2. By interceding for them. WE can intercede for them as priests did in the Old Testament and as Christ does today. We must learn to assume the role of "home ministers" that we are called to be.
3. By cleansing them. We cleanse our spouses and children by the



Word of God, as priests of the Old Testament cleansed away the sins by temple sacrifices. Our children will begin to see our priestly functions daily, as the Israelites saw the priests function daily in the temple: interceding, mediating and sacrificing for God's people.

Parents are to be kings to their children, because by nature they are weak and helpless. I like to use the letter "P" to show

the different roles of good kings in Scripture.

1. Proclaiming - Godly Kings proclaimed the truth as Josiah did when the law was found in the temple. Parents (in their roles as prophets and kings) continually proclaim God's truth to their children, not only in what they say, but by the way they live day by day.

2. Providing - Godly Kings provided for the physical and spiritual needs of their people. Parents are worse than unbelievers if they do not provide for the necessities of their families. Sadly, many fathers (and sometimes mothers) believe if they bring enough money or things home for their families then they have fulfilled their roles as godly parents and leave the other aspects of governing their households to others (the other spouse, the baby-sitter, the school teacher or pastor).

3. Protecting - There is hardly a day that goes by without my hearing someone who has fallen into a deadly sin emanating from the internet, television or association with godless "friends". We must recognize that we live in a fallen culture. The forces of evil are no longer restrained by general societal norms. Thus we must stand as protectors.

4. Punishing - A good king sets good rules in place and enforces them. If there is not enforcement then the "bully" will take over. The book of Proverbs tells us that we "hate" our children if we don't discipline them properly. This is true in families, schoolrooms, communities and nations. Children are secure in the boundaries we set for them, even if they cannot fully understand why we've set them. There is great peace and security within boundaries, protected by praying parents.

5. Pardoning - As we see ourselves incapable of obeying the law and continually failing, we take solace in the fact that Christ has pardoned us. Thus we don't hold grudges against our children, we, as parents, will want to be quickly reconciled with our children. No one likes to serve a tyrant, even if he is "right". Having a pardoning spirit, allows merciful parents to be encouragers for their children.

The above overview is an example of one of the teaching modules we go through in our "Covenantal Parenting Seminar". You can get a good overview of it by purchasing our ***Prophets, Priests, Kings and Me*** for your church. contact CMI about Series K or how to set up a "Covenantal Parenting Workshop.

Brad Winsted

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