

The New Testament Priesthood

I. As priest:

1. We have access to God the Father (Heb. 4:16).
2. We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices (1 Pet. 2:5).
3. The sacrifice of our living body (Rom. 12:1).
 - 1) A contradiction?
 - 2) A negation of the sin nature.
 - i. The body as a weapon for righteousness (Rom. 6:13).
 - ii. A body as a slave to obey God (Rom. 6:16).

II. The spiritual sacrifice of giving physical goods.

1. Giving called a sacrifice (Phil. 4:15-18).
 - 1) Philippians were poor (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
 - 2) Yet gave and it please God.
2. "Fellowship" and "communicate" in the KJV are the same word and have the idea of "share in common" (Heb. 13:16).
3. God loves the one giving with the right motive (2 Cor. 9:6-7).
4. The Christian gives from what they have, not from what they do not have (2 Cor. 8:9-12).

III. Christian giving:

1. Is not a tithe, which would be a rule, or law. There are no laws for the spiritual Christian (Gal. 5:18, 23).
2. The motive in giving is what is acceptable.
3. Everything a Christian has belongs to the Lord so giving is really "giving back" to Him.
4. General principles applicable in all dispensations:
 - 1) Cannot serve two masters (Mt. 6:24).
 - 2) Do not seek human recognition for giving (Mt. 6:1-4).