

ABSTRACT

1 Peter is a valuable and yet essential letter for contemporary churches as it provides valuable insights on Christian living in the face of uncertainty and suffering. The dissertation argues for a priestly community for the 21st Century. One of the key features of 1 Peter is its emphasis on the idea of Christians as a holy priesthood (1 Peter 2:5, 9). Such language is similar to that found in the Old Testament, where the priests were responsible for interceding on behalf of the people and maintaining the sanctity of the community.

The research examines, contrasts, and analyses the concept of royal priesthood as presented in 1 Peter 2:4-10 (in context) and explores how the Church lives the metaphor and turns it into a vocational imperative. The primary focus is on understanding how this concept of a priestly community shapes and transforms God's people and those they interact with.

The dissertation is divided into six different chapters, each seeking to educate, encourage and inspire a people belonging to God to be faithful in challenging times. It proposes that parishes across the country can embrace the identity of a priestly community and be confident in drawing people into God's vision of chosen and royal priesthood.