

Heidelberg Catechism 32 – You Are Anointed Too (Psalm 23)

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Parents don't want their children to only treat them as time-out poles. Parents don't want their children to only treat them as the Royal Bank of Canada. Parents don't want their children to only treat them as Pizza Pizza. Parents want their children to understand that they as parents have many different roles in life. Yes, sometimes it is time to play, or be a band, or be a restaurant. At other times, it is time to rest, time to discipline, and time for hard work. You see, parents want children to reflect them and grow up to be good Christians and good citizens in all areas of life. Similarly, your Christ was anointed as your prophet, priest, and king – doing what was essential for your salvation and sanctification. Your Christ is not just your friend. He is your prophet, priest, and king. As a Christian, one anointed through Christ as prophet, priest, and king, you are to reflect that anointing in all the different areas of life. This is what God will teach you today.

Our headings are: You are a member of Christ, You receive Christ's benefits, and You fulfill your duties to Christ.

Our goals are: That realizing the greatness of your position and privileges in Jesus Christ, you will walk and work as children of Light, to his praise and glory.

Question 32 But why are you called a Christian? Answer: Because by faith **I am a member of Christ** and so I share in His anointing 受膏上有份。 **I am anointed to confess His name**, to present myself to Him a **living sacrifice** of thanks, to strive 可以用 with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward **to reign 作王 with Christ** over all creation for all eternity.

You are a member of Christ

1. All who are Christians have Christ's anointing. While the title "Christian" was most likely used in a denigrating 毁誉 way in Antioch to refer to Christians, Christians seized on the opportunity to use it properly. Christians used it because it was accurate. Remember: Christ means "anointed" so you are rightly called Christians.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1Corinthians 12: 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Apostle Peter reaffirmed 重新确认 rightly that you are not only Christians, but you are also officers in Christ's kingdom with the 3 Christly offices 职分. So as a king you will do kingly things, for instance. You reflect your anointing.

1Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

2. How do you become a member of Christ? You become a member by having faith in Christ – who he is and what he has done – in his person and in his work. You simply receive what he has done as if you had done it and you were in him when he did it! How is this membership applied to you? This is the work of the Holy Spirit—he anoints and seals 印记 you. And there was no charge for it. And no one else could anoint you but the Holy Spirit of God.

1John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides 住在 in you

You are set apart for special duty with by a special ceremony 仪式 or mark.

3. While the early church did not write the word "Christian" on their doors, they used it to identify who they were to each other with the word "fish" in Greek—"ichthus." Each letter of the word "ichthus" – an acronym- started these 5 words in Greek: **Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior.** This was the symbol that Christians used to identify each other as members of Christ's community. ("Theos" God – is written as two letters – "th".) As others believed in Christ they were always welcomed and trained to identify themselves as Christians. Identification with Christ 与基督认同 (Anointed One) was expected. "Secret Christian" is a contradiction.

4. What a contrast 对比 from society today! There are some clubs that deliberately try to keep regular folks out by having very large membership fees – like many golf clubs. Some clubs you can't join because you can't meet the qualifications. You may not have a yacht 游艇 so you can't get in the yacht club. You may not have a million dollars so you can't get into the million dollar club. But not with Christ. You can become a member of Christ free of cost with no yearly fee. It is an eternal costly price that was paid by him. Even the faith to receive his new life promises is a gift from him.

You receive Christ's Benefits

1. You are **not only a member of Christ**, but you also receive **permanent benefits** 永久的恩惠. And this is so much more than an annual retirement pension. These benefits stay with you after you die. What a membership to have.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Christ is not a time out pole or port for a cruise ship. You are always near him. So you always receive the blessings.

2. And those permanent benefits would not mean much if they were not **great benefits**—the greatest of all.

God pours out his Holy Spirit on you to keep and bless you.

God gives you his church with directions of how to guide you. And in the church he gave different offices to different people to help you, people like pastors, elders, and deacons.

God gives you his love letter so you can remind yourself not just of the rules you must follow, but also of how you loves you and how he encourages and equips you to walk with him.

You have the hope of heaven, and God's Spirit guarantees 保证 you will get it.

Romans 10: 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

You fulfill your duties to Christ

1. Being a member of Christ and receiving the benefits of Christ is all well and good, but membership has its responsibilities.

You have to see your duties in terms of Christ's 3 offices: prophet, priest, and king, in which you also were anointed. Almost any club or organization you may join you realize there are certain responsibilities... things forbidden and things required. If you join a political party you have to subscribe to its by-laws (you can't be a member of another political party)...or if you join the army you have certain rules for behavior that you must follow (you can't fight for the enemy). Sadly, some find this idea of conforming 符合 to Christ as prophet, priest, and king, repulsive. They can't stand the thought of having to conform to someone else and wanting to do what is right in his own eyes. As a Christian, you don't find the fact that you are anointed as a Christian and separated to special service repulsive at all. You know there are great benefits to conforming to Jesus Christ. So what are your duties as Christians to Christ? Let's consider the 3 main areas:

2. **As a prophet:** You are to **confess** like Peter that Jesus is the Christ. You have to teach God's Word – all of it. I know there are signs in many Western countries that say things like: Would Jesus discriminate 歧视 against homosexuals 同性恋者? Would Jesus want us to kill animals and drive cars? Would Jesus want people to have guns? They insinuate 暗示 that they know what Jesus would want and they are usually wrong. But you know what Jesus would want, so speak for it. And you also teach God's Word by your actions; your whole life must be a testimony to God's redemption. Yes, I know you find it hard, especially to live as a prophet and to speak truth with your life...but "lifestyle preaching" is necessary! You are honest with your taxes. You drive safely. You fight to protect your family and country. Etc.

Romans 12: 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Galatians 5: 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh 肉体的私欲

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

You are not to be confirmed to the world but be transformed to be more Christ-like. You are expected to teach those under your care as well – teach them the truth.

3. **As a priest:** You have to **worship in the way that Christ says and then pray to God for yourself and others**, starting with your family – your wife and your children. You no longer have to bring God any bulls and goats, but you are to worship from your lips and your heart.

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

As well, as a **priest you must be willing share in Christ's suffering**, and deny yourself what you may want for the good of others.

4. **As a king:** You have to **protect yourself and others against the constant wiles** 诡计的 of the Devil. You have to watch over everything God has made. You have to watch over the spiritual condition of those under your charge and help them to fight against the deceptions 欺骗 of the Devil. You have to find out what is going on in your children's lives so you can

see if there is danger – peer pressure, or struggles with sins... You have to discipline your children in home or in the church. This is a large part of your kingly duties. But there is more. For instance: You are to be best the most sensible environmentalists, because you would follow God...not Al Gore or David Suzuki. You **guard the world** that God has entrusted 交付 to you and you use it wisely – according to the principles of God's Word.

5. As a king you also reign 作王 with Christ and you will reign with Christ in fullness in the future.

2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, **We shall also reign with Him**. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

Matthew 25: 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, '**Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:

1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that **we shall judge angels**? How much more, things that pertain to this life 今生的事?

And yet, the Bible teaches that **Christ is reigning now**. Christ is not a baby in the manger. He is the risen Lord and King who sits at God's right hand, judging the nations. He sits there to keep you safe. He sits there to let you know you have a guarantee that a body like yours will be there as well. In the meanwhile, he is reigning through you to bring the world to himself. The challenge always is to ask yourself: Do I live like one who is reigning for Christ, or do I feel intimidated 胁迫 and hide? Do I let the world know that I represent 代表 Christ and call on the world to submit to the eternal King? Am I afraid to discipline those under my care? Do I know the common spiritual dangers of today?

6. But to fulfill your duties you have to be filled with the Spirit of God who protects you. If you don't have God's Spirit you will wince 退缩 away from doing your duties. You will be ashamed of Christ. You'll be afraid to speak and unable to.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The Devil will do everything he can to stop you from being that prophet, priest, and king under Christ. He has no other purpose in his life. So you have to see these **Christian duties as war – war against sin, your flesh, and the Devil.**

1 Timothy 1: 18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck 失落

This is the true view of a Christian battle. This girly 像少女的 bed-of-roses image of Christianity is contradictory to the whole tenor of the Bible 圣经全盘要旨. Being a Christian is to be involved in a cosmic struggle 宇宙性挣扎. It is a struggle for world dominion. Yes, you will have peace in your heart that will help you to fight, but it is a fight. Don't be fooled by those who limit this fight!

Conclusion:

Know that you are called to be prophet, priest, and king, because Christ is prophet, priest, and king. But some people don't talk about Christ because they are ill-prepared or ignorant of what to say. Others don't pray for strength to face the challenges they or others face...and sometimes they are afraid of persecution. Others fail as king because they don't know the issues-the dangers of the day. They don't watch television or follow the news, they don't read other books other than the Bible, and they know little of history so they can't be the king God expects. So they exercise little discipline on children or delinquent 失职 members, etc. They receive the benefits, but they avoid the duties that come with being anointed.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Know** that having been brought into Christ's kingdom and blessed with all you need to not just survive, but thrive 兴旺. And having the assurance that you rule with Christ under his anointing, how well have you fulfilled your duties? You are part of a kingdom that is unstoppable-undefeatable. Do you live like it? **Pray to live like Christ – as prophet, priest, and king – working to bring the world under the dominion of Jesus Christ**. If you take this message seriously, it will change how you live as a Christian, how you live as a parent, a member of the church and a citizen of this nation. May God help you to change! Furthermore, ask God to help you not to love the pleasures of this world...but to learn to work for the one who chose you and separated you to be a prophet, priest, and king in this world. Ask him to make you willing to suffer if you have to, to carry out his offices and cause his kingdom to come on earth. **Commit** yourself to Christ. The Christian life is marked by a radical commitment to Christ. Are you radically committed to him?

Finally, if you are not a Christian, let me **invite** you to membership with Christ. Membership is free for you – Christ paid for eternal membership – and he guarantees that those who come will be able to enjoy that membership forever...by keeping you alive forever. Come to Christ and receive all his benefits. May this be your desire. It is hell if you don't receive Christ's benefits.