

The Attackers: The Barrier: Propitiation, Position in Adam; Removal of the Barrier Is Reconciliation; the Redeemed Believer Is Made a Royal Priest Representing Himself before God, Heb 5:1; 9:12, & Royal Ambassador Representing Christ to the World, 2 Cor 5:20;

Propitiation: The Godward side of the cross in which the saving work of Jesus Christ satisfied God's wrath regarding the sins of mankind. "Jesus, God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed" (Romans 3:25).

- (6) **Position in Adam:** Faith alone in Christ results in justification and the imputation of eternal life. "In Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22b).

The phrase "in Christ," ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ (**en tō Christō**), refers to the baptism of the Holy Spirit that places the new believer in union with Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new spiritual species, the old things have passed away (the six components of the barrier); behold, new things have come (the spiritual assets imputed at spiritual birth)" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

10. The removal of this barrier constitutes reconciliation. Propitiation, the Godward side of the cross, and reconciliation, the manward side of the cross, results in the believer becoming a member of God's royal family through faith in Christ.
11. As a new spiritual species created by the grace of God through the work of Christ, the believer is invested with two royal titles: (1) royal priest and (2) royal ambassador.
12. As a royal priest, the believer is able to represent himself before God, the principle of the priesthood of the believer.
13. In the Old Testament, the tribe of Levi, family of Aaron, formed a specialized priesthood "appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins" (Hebrews 5:1).
14. The rituals were conducted by this priesthood in the Tabernacle and Temple. They presented the details of the coming Messiah on Whom the Jews were to believe through faith alone for salvation.
15. In the Church Age, there are no rituals that the royal priesthood is commanded to perform with the exception of the Eucharist.
16. The prophetic rituals of old were retired with the arrival of Messiah into human history:

Hebrews 9:12 - Not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood [**metonymy for the spiritual death of Christ**], He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (NASB)

17. The message of grace is assigned to the royal ambassadors so that through them the world might come to know "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4).
18. Every believer holds the title of royal ambassador whose function is to present the gospel to unbelievers.

19. Legitimate witnessing occurs through a Spirit- guided communication of the gospel to the unbeliever.

2 Corinthians 5:20 - We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (NASB)

20. To be an effective witness for Christ, the presentation of the gospel is to be well versed, well-ordered, and well- spoken.
21. Well versed means the ambassador is familiar with the subject matter that comprises the gospel through study and experience. The more he presents the gospel the more aware he becomes of what issues are pertinent and those that are not.
22. One of the common arguments in response to hearing the gospel is, “What about a person who dies having never heard the gospel?”
23. From human viewpoint, such a person could conceivably exist. But the Bible is clear that all have come into the knowledge of God:

Romans 1:20 - Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly perceived, being understood through the things that are created, namely, His eternal omnipotence and His eternal nature so that they are without excuse.

Romans 1:21 - Because when they knew God, they did not honor Christ as God nor did they feel obligated to thank Him. In fact, as a result of their negative volition, they received worthless ideas into their evil deliberations and their ignorant, non-perceiving *kardias* receive darkness. (CTL)

24. Comments such as “What about the heathen?” are common when engaging the unbeliever. But the ambassador is to remember that he is speaking with a member of the Dark Side.
25. An ambassador is “an official envoy; especially: a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign.”¹
26. The Roman *cáligae* is Paul’s choice of the soldier’s panoply to illustrate the requirement of the Christian to fulfill his title of royal ambassadorship through witnessing.

¹ Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v. “ambassador.”