

WHO HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO GOD?

A person who has direct access to God is called a _____

Two practices formed in the Catholic Church in Europe during the Middle Ages (500-1500 AD):

1. Christians who were not clergy or monks given second-class status.
2. Praying to saints and Mary as “go-between” to Jesus

In response, Martin Luther wrote *Sermon on the Mass* in 1520. He argued:

1. _____ IS YOUR PRIEST

“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” Hebrews 4:14–16, NLT

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.” 1 Timothy 2:5–6a

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” John 14:6, NLT

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU:

BECAUSE OF JESUS, YOU CAN SPEAK _____ TO GOD

2. THE _____ ARE PRIESTS

“All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.” Revelation 1:5b–6, NLT

IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN, YOU _____!

* PEOPLE CAN _____ TO YOU

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” James 5:16a

TIPS:

* NON-CHRISTIANS _____ THROUGH YOU

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9, NLT

What does this mean for us as a church?

* YOUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS AN ACT OF _____

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.” Romans 12:1, NLT