

*The Adopted Life*

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ 05.15.2011

## **How The Royal Priesthood Rules**

In the cross we find the weapon of the grace-based Trinitarian revolutionary—non-violent truth-telling. Christ’s objective on the cross was utterly unique, but his tactic is universal. He endured unjust suffering on the cross, “leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps” (1 Peter 2.21). Peter has just finished telling us that we are “a royal priesthood” (2.9). We will reign with him a thousand years, and THIS is how we will reign—by suffering unjustly at the hands of those we rule, foregoing revenge and threats, for the sole reason that we know we can trust “the One who judges justly” (2.23). We share in Jesus’ vocation to do only good and to speak only truth (2.22).

It is only in this way that the kingdom comes, that the Father’s will is done on earth as in heaven. In Adam we were bound in shame and fear, and violence was the only way we knew to respond to violence. But now we have been set free from that way of living death, so that we can live in the way that makes the world more right (2.24). The world finds healing as we share in His wounds. It is in this direction, and no other, that our shepherd now guides our souls (2.25). Our embrace of suffering reveals the truth about ourselves, about our persecutors, and about God. And the truth will set us all free.

*~ John Stonecypher*