

Despising Office, Gift, or Priesthood

	Tendency to despise it...	Example from the Wilderness
Priesthood	We forget that the Lord is our great resource, not man. We forsake individual communion: prayer and worship. We begin to emphasize service over worship .	Numbers 20:1-12. The Lord told Moses to take "the rod" (i.e. Aaron's), the rod of priestly grace, and speak to the rock. Instead Moses took his rod (i.e. judgment) and smote the rock twice. Thinking that the strong arm of judgment would bring blessing to God's people is wrong. The only true resource is God, whom we go to in prayer. Moses would die before Canaan.
Office	An attitude of rebellion comes in, and the leadership is ignored, disrespected, or disobeyed. This leads to disorder and eventually to division .	Numbers 12:1-16. Miriam (prophet/gift) and Aaron (priest) began to speak against Moses. Miriam was smitten with leprosy, and had to be put outside the camp, which waited until Miriam was healed before moving on. When there is rebellion against oversight, there may need to be discipline. But after the discipline, gift must be allowed to function.
Gift	The false notion that order ought to superseded hearing the voice of the Lord. This leads to removing opportunities for ministry, and the spiritual starvation of the assembly.	Numbers 11:26-30. Eldad and Medad prophesied in the camp (gift). Joshua training under Moses (office) said <i>"My lord Moses, forbid them."</i> Moses answered, <i>"And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!"</i> We must not despise prophesyings (1 Thess. 5:20).

Errors that Result from Confusing Office, Gift, and Priesthood

	Mix with...		
	Priesthood	Office	Gift
Priesthood	Proper conduct.	Begin to think of a hierarchy in worship and prayer. Leads to the development of a class-priesthood , worship-leaders, etc. which limits individual priesthood.	Begin to think that there is a special ability in prayer, and that only certain ones can worship at certain times. This also leads to a class-priesthood .
Office	Begin to think that there is no leadership in the assembly, and everyone's voice should have equal weight in terms of oversight. It will result in disorder in the assembly .	Proper conduct.	Begin to think that authority in one assembly can be extended to interfere with another assembly. This leads to the error of regional oversight (archbishops, etc.).
Gift	Begin to think that there is no distinction of gift in the assembly, and that everyone should say what is on their mind. Leads to disorder in the assembly , Spirit grieved.	Begin to think that gift or ability qualifies one for oversight. This leads to erratic leadership and legal or intrusive ministry .	Proper conduct.