

Kingdom Citizenship

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

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Series: The Kingdom of God

Text: Philippians 3:20

Citizenship is the most valuable asset of a nation and is not easily given because of the power and impact of the privileges and **rights** it brings. Citizenship is a critical concept to grasp in understanding the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven. A citizen is a part of an elite group. Salvation is for all, but very few enter in. **Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 7:18-23**

Citizenship is necessary for the validity and **legitimacy** of any nation. It is the most sacred privilege of a nation, and the most precious gift a nation can give. When it comes to matters of citizenship, the Kingdom of God is no different from any country. The Kingdom of God is not a **religion**. It is a government with Heaven as the country and Jesus the Christ as its King.

America provides a modern-day example of citizenship. Once people find out about the Kingdom of Heaven and what it offers, they **rush** to get in. **Luke 16:16** They press to get in or try to **force** their way in. Most people are not clamoring to get into **churches** but most want to claim ownership to Heaven. That is because most churches do not teach the Kingdom of God or model Kingdom living. But once people get a **taste** of what Heaven is, they want it. **Psalms 34:8**

Those who realize the **value** of being a citizen of the Kingdom will stop at nothing to be a part of it. **Luke 16:16, Matthew 11:12 (NKJV & AMP)** This verse primarily states that those who desire to be citizens must truly **desire** and be relentlessly loyal and patriotic. **Mark 12:30**

Matthew 11:12 can apply to spiritual **warfare** in that, as a nation, we are under relentless spiritual attack and we will fight back and that there is pressure from the enemy to change the nature of the Kingdom. The enemy attacks the **sovereignty** of the Kingdom of Heaven. When the enemy attacks a sovereign kingdom, the kingdom and the king respond with force – Why? because of the lives at stake and the violence and pillaging that take place. There is **intensity** about it. There is no room for **complacency**.

James 5:16, Matthew 12:28, Luke 10:9-11

Notice the **authority** given to the average Kingdom citizen.

Every Kingdom citizen is a **naturalized** citizen. We have immigrated from a foreign country. **Ephesians 2:19** Notice that Heaven is not only a country, it is **home**.

We call being “Born Again” getting “saved” however it is more helpful to think of the new birth as the naturalization process by which we become Kingdom citizens. **Philippians 3:20, Colossians 1:12-14 (KJV)**

At the time of the new birth, our citizenship starts **immediately**. Our citizenship in Heaven is a present **reality** not a future hope. Religion postpones citizenship to the future. We have eternal life **now**. The Kingdom of God is present and functional on the earth right now. We can enjoy all the rights, benefits, and privileges of the Kingdom right now if we are citizens. You CAN NEVER **appropriate** what you postpone. One of the greatest enemies of the Kingdom is religion. Why? Religion says wait till later. That is why so many religious people live **defeated**, destitute and frustrated lives.

One of the responsibilities of any government is to take care of its citizens at home or abroad. It does that through its **embassies**, that is what a **church** is supposed to be. When God created the local church, He was not creating a religious institution, His purpose was to set up an embassy of His Kingdom. The church is a place where Kingdom citizens could receive aid and be trained in the ways, laws and customs of the Kingdom.

As citizens of the Kingdom of God we carry **dual** citizenship. We are in the world but not of the world. **John 15:19, John 17:14-16, Philippians 3:20**

The Kingdom of Heaven in this world is **invisible** and so are the citizens.
Luke 17:20-21, 1 Timothy 1:17, Colossians 1:16, Romans 1:20

Just because it is invisible does not mean it does not have **impact**.
Luke 13:20-21 Once dough is mixed you cannot see the yeast, but it is influencing every part of the bread. We can't see **gravity** but there is no doubt it is at work.

Citizenship is invisible because there is no way to **look** at someone and tell where they are from. They will recognize us and we will recognize one another by our distinctive language, **ideals** and customs. They will know us by our primary trait of Love. **John 13:35**