



KINGDOM COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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Ephesians 2:19

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

- As a kingdom community, we are sons and daughters of the king. We have citizenship because God has moved from the idea of a physical people to a spiritual.
- Paul was clear about the fact that we are grafted in after being considered aliens under the Old Testament.
- Being community means we have rights and privileges given to us because we were born into this kingdom.
- Last week I talked about access to the benefits and blessings available to citizenship.

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 - Being community means we have rights and privileges given to us because we were born into this kingdom.
 - Last week I talked about access to the benefits and blessings available to citizenship.
 - To be a kingdom citizen is a privilege that comes with both benefits and responsibilities.

Benefits

- Freedom to exercise your God-given will to make decisions.
- Freedom to worship and have direct access to the presence of God.
- Right to redemption and forgiveness, and access to new beginnings.
- Right to engage in a spiritual growth process.
- Right to work in kingdom building.
- Right to serve and lead.
- Freedom to pursue “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” made available by God’s grace.

Responsibilities

- Support and defend the word of God.
- Study to show yourself approved, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- Participate in the community.
- Respect and obey, and live by kingdom principles.
- Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
- Serve others within your community.
- Invest in the kingdom's advancement through financial investment of tithes and offerings.
- Defend the kingdom of God at all cost.

Galatians 3:26-29

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

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- It is so important that our relationship with God is predicated on our faith. It is through faith only that we recognize and understand our position in relationship with God.
 - Baptism reinforces that Christ in you is seen upon you.
 - The fact that God himself has removed any idea of respect of person; the idea that God blesses one person more than the other is in opposition to the faith that we declare that we have.
 - We are one in Christ, one with Christ, and therefore we must be one in community. To say that God blesses others more than you is a true sign of doubt and unbelief.

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- The same covenant blessings that were given to Abraham has been past on to us as joint heirs with Christ. When you don't know your identity, you can't have the faith to receive or accept what has been provided for you.

Hebrews 12:22-25

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

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- We have already come into the city of the living God; it is not a city you have to visit after you die because your citizenship has already been established in kingdom community. We have a right that exceeds angels.
 - We are the general assembly and the church of the first born. Already written in heaven, our birth certificate is on record. It has already been established, transition is just a transfer to a better status.
 - Jesus purchased our rights; he purchased our salvation; he purchased our eternal life.

Matthew 16:19

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.