

KINGDOM LIFE -6

“CHURCH MEMBERSHIP OR KINGDOM CITIZENSHIP?”

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November 16, 2008

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN HAS COME.

Matt. 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (NRSV)*

Matt. 6:9-10 *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” (KJV)*

ALL MEMBERS OF GOD’S FAMILY ARE CITIZENS OF GOD’S KINGDOM.

Eph. 2:19 *So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. (NLT)*

The Rights and Privileges of Kingdom Citizenship.

1. They are free and forgiven.

Col. 1:13-14 *For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. (NLT)*

2. They walk in the supernatural.

1 Cor. 4:20 *For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power. (NLT)*

Matt. 10:7-8 *“As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.” (NRSV)*

3. They will know the mysteries of the Kingdom.

Matt. 13:11 *Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.” (NASB)*

4. Jesus will return for them.

Phil. 3:20 *But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. (NLT)*

WE BECOME CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM BY BELIEVING IN JESUS AND BEING BORN AGAIN.

John 1:12-13 *But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. (NLT)*

John 3:3 *Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, unless one is born again, he cannot be in God’s kingdom.” (NCV)*

THE KINGDOM OF GOD EXISTS WITHIN ITS CITIZENS, NOT IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

Luke 17:20-21 *Some of the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the kingdom of God come?” Jesus answered, “God’s kingdom is coming, but not in a way that you will be able to see with your eyes. People will not say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or, ‘There it is!’ because God’s kingdom is within you.” (NCV)*

THE KINGDOM BECOMES VISIBLE IN THE MINISTRY OF ITS CITIZENS.

1. Their ministry of loving.

John 13:34-35 *“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (NLT)*

2. Their ministry of reconciliation.

2 Cor. 5:18-19 *And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. (NLT)*

3. Their ministry of transforming influence.

Matt. 5:13-16 *“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (NLT)*

Luke 13:20-21 *Jesus said again, “What can I compare God’s kingdom with? It is like yeast that a woman took and hid in a large tub of flour until it made all the dough rise.” (NCV)*

THOSE WHO TRULY UNDERSTAND THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL STRONGLY CONTEND TO ENTER IT.

Luke 16:16 *“The law of Moses and the writings of the prophets were preached until John came. Since then the Good News about the kingdom of God is being told, and everyone tries to enter it by force.” (NCV)*

IT IS GOD’S PLEASURE TO GIVE US KINGDOM CITIZENSHIP.

Luke 12:32 *“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.” (NLT)*