



Our Citizenship is in Heaven

A citizen is a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country. Citizens adopt the culture and practices of the nation or kingdom to which they belong. Every human being is born into the kingdom of this world, in which Satan rules (2 Corinthians 4:4). Consequently, we grow up adopting the culture, practices, and values that he instigates (Genesis 3:1; I John 2:16).

Satan's kingdom enslaves its citizens (Romans 6:16). With darkened hearts and minds, we blindly follow our leader into the very sins that pull us deeper into slavery. We remain captives in this kingdom of sin, headed for destruction, until Jesus frees us (Ephesians 2:1-4). Philippians 3:18-10 highlights the differences between those who desire fellowship with Jesus Christ and those who focus on earthly pursuits: "For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and the glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things." Those who do not know Christ live only for this world and the pleasure they can find for themselves. They are "citizens" of this world and live by its rules and value system.

When we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:3), we are born into the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 3:2; 7:21; Romans 14:17). Speaking of those who have had that spiritual rebirth, Philippians 3:20 says, "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry explaining the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 4:17). He compared it to many things, including a wheat field in which weeds grew along with the wheat. The plants appeared identical at first, but were separated at the harvest. The truth is, often the citizens of heaven and those of this world appear identical, and no one but God knows the difference (Romans 8:19). Many people may appear to be citizens of heaven, when, in fact, no rebirth has ever taken place in their hearts (Matthew 7:21).

When God grants us citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven, we become "new creatures" (2 Corinthians 5:17). He sends His Holy spirit to indwell our spirits, and our bodies become His temple (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20). The Holy Spirit begins to transform our sinful, worldly desires into those that glorify God (Romans 12:1-2). His goal is to make us as much

like Jesus as possible in this life (Romans 8:29). We are given the power and privilege of exiting the world's flawed value system and living for eternity (I John 2:15-17). To be adopted into the family of God means that we become citizens of an eternal kingdom where our Father is the King. Our focus turns toward eternal things and storing up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20). We consider ourselves ambassadors to this earth until our Father sends for us and we go home (Ephesians 2:18-19; 6:20).

We live for a short time in these physical bodies, anticipating the bright future in our real home. While here, we share Abraham's experience, living "like a stranger in a foreign country. . . looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:9-10).

Citizenship- Christians are to follow the law, submitting in "every authority instituted among men: (I Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:2-5) Christians are to show authorities proper respect (Romans 13:4).

Heaven, which is the Kingdom of God, is where those who have been obedient to God's plan of life and salvation go after judgment and the resurrection. The spirit of Jesus, after his death, went to paradise and not to the Kingdom of Heaven.

To become a citizen of heaven you must be born again. To be born again you must look to Jesus Christ the son of God and the savior with eyes of faith. When you are born again, that is, when you are saved, you become a citizen of heaven and receive a spiritual passport.

Who is not allowed in the Kingdom of God? Those who sin sexually, worship idols, take part in adultery, those who are made prostitutes, or men who have sexual relations with other men, those who steal, are greedy, get drunk, lie about others, or rob—these people will not inherit God's Kingdom. I Corinthians 6:8-11

How to become a member of the kingdom of God?

1. Pray and Read the Word
2. Believe the gospel
3. Recognize Jesus Christ's sacrifice and role
4. Seek Baptism
5. Receive God's Spirit
6. Be active in God's Church
7. Endure and overcome
8. Now is the time!

Heavenly citizenship just means, as a follower of Christ, you are a citizen of God's Kingdom first. Followers of Christ are first cross-bearers rather than flag-bearers. Respond in Prayer.

Spend some time now asking God to shift your mindset to one of being a citizen of Heaven first and foremost.

Romans 10:9 “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved.”

Kingdom of God in Christianity, the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king, or the fulfillment on Earth of God’s will. You have to be born again. You have to be baptized in water (burial of the old nature). You have to be filled with the spirit of God (resurrection new nature) migrating to new positions. You have to learn meekness and humility. You have to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. You must choose to live under the lordship of Jesus Christ. You have a right to everything in the Kingdom. There is a **covenant** between Jesus and God, signed in Jesus’ blood, which provides these rights for you.

John 3:5 No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. He did not set baptism as a hindrance to salvation but just the opposite. We so often judge things by human standards, but God is not restrained by our standards.

Love others **Philippians 2:2**

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the savior, the Lord Jesus christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Characteristics of Heavenly Citizens

1. Compassion
2. Kindness
3. Humility
4. Gentleness
5. Patience
6. Forgiveness
7. Love for one another

Colossians 3:15 “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”