

The Power of Citizenship

Acts 22:24-28 NKJV

24 the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him.

25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?"

26 When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman."

27 Then the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes."

28 The commander answered, "With a large sum I obtained this citizenship." And Paul said, "***But I was born a citizen.***"

29 Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

Difficulties to Citizenship

✓ **Fear of the unknown**

✓ **Preparations**

Matthew 11:10 NLT

John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and ***he will prepare your way before you.***'

✓ **Taking the necessary action**

✓ **Leaving what you know behind.**

Luke 9:62 NKJV

But Jesus said to him,

"No one, having put his hand to the plow, ***and looking back,*** is fit for the kingdom of God."

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The Kingdom

How To Reside In The Fullness Of The Kingdom

The Three "R's" of Residing in the Kingdom

1. Rights: **Citizen** of God's Kingdom.

Ephesians 2:12-13 NLT

12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. ***You were excluded from citizenship*** among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13 But now you have been ***united with Christ Jesus.*** Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ.

Philippians 3:20-21 NIV

20 But ***our citizenship is in heaven.*** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.

2. Representation: **Ambassador** for God's Kingdom.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NLT

20 So ***we are Christ's ambassadors;*** God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

3. Recipient: **Sons & Daughters** are heirs to God's Kingdom.

Galatians 4:7 NKJV

Therefore you are no longer a slave ***but a son,*** and if a son, then ***an heir of God through Christ.***

Colossians 1:13-14 NLT

13 For he has ***rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son,*** 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

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