

CITIZENSHIP IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

I need to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Our focus today is citizenship in the Kingdom of God. In order to speak on this topic, we have to begin our discussion at the most obvious place: the end of the Bible.
- ❖ In Revelation 7:9-19, the Apostle John, who is credited with writing the book, says he was “in the Spirit” on the Lord’s Day when he received the revelation contained in the text.
- ❖ It was probably a vision John had received. One in which he saw a magnificent celebration that included people from every nation, all tribes, all people and languages.
- ❖ When we consider what it means to be a citizen of a particular country or to have heritage tied to a specific country, we understand that there are certain customs and symbols reflective of that citizenship.
- ❖ For example, many countries have a national day where they may honour their independence or where they simply commemorate their culture.
- ❖ It’s important that we celebrate our national heritage, our cultures.
- ❖ However, there is a citizenship that is greater than our natural citizenship—one that has eternal implications. This is citizenship in the Kingdom of God.
- ❖ The Kingdom of God can be defined as: the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king; or the fulfillment on Earth of God’s will.
- ❖ Participation in the Kingdom of God requires faith in God. Faith is defined as complete trust or complete confidence in someone or something. “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). In this case, we are speaking about faith in God.
- ❖ Now, it’s possible to participate in the Kingdom of God without being a citizen of the Kingdom.
- ❖ It’s similar to the way we visit different countries on vacation and experience their culture and heritage without being a citizen of that country.
- ❖ A part of the culture of the Kingdom of God is encountering the supernatural power of God. It’s possible to experience the miraculous, wonder-working power of Jesus without having our lives submitted to Him.
- ❖ We can experience healings or financial blessings without being a citizen of the Kingdom of God; however, this is not the will of God. Jesus wants more than just a visit from us. He wants us to become citizens of the Kingdom of God by accepting Him as the Lord of our lives.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Revelation 7:9-19 NIV

- ❖ Accepting Jesus means entering into a personal relationship with Him.
- ❖ The amazing thing about citizenship in the Kingdom of God is that our natural national associations don’t matter. That is the beauty of what we read in Revelation 7!
- ❖ The Kingdom of God is made up of people from every nation, all tribes, all people and languages. And the invitation to become of citizens of the Kingdom of God is given to everyone.
- ❖ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).
- ❖ Today, let’s celebrate our citizenship in the Kingdom of God!
- ❖ You may ask the question: How do I become a citizen of the Kingdom of God? The answer can be found in Acts 2:38:
“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- ❖ When we become citizens of the Kingdom of God we can be transformed by a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ❖ When we become citizens of the Kingdom of God, we can look forward to that great celebration we read about in Revelation 7.
- ❖ Let us all accept citizenship in the Kingdom of God by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What does citizenship mean to you and what are some citizenship requirements?
2. Review the steps of becoming a citizen of the Kingdom of God. How is citizenship in the Kingdom of God similar to/different from citizenship in a natural country? What happens when steps are skipped in each case?
3. Providing scriptural reference, what are some of the benefits to being a citizen of the Kingdom of God?

PRAYER TIME




Lord, please help me to accept and maintain citizenship in the Kingdom of God by accepting You as my Lord and Savior.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms)  (New idea)  (Think about)

 (Do this)  (Speaks to my heart)  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: What is/has been your dream vacation? Describe the things you did/would like to do.