

Call to Worship: Psalm 22:27-28

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:43-49

Sermon: "Citizens and Members" Ephesians 2:19

Benediction: Revelation 7:9-10

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

INTRODUCTION

Main highways through Ephesians

1. All glory to God's grace for what He has so powerfully done for us in Christ Jesus
2. One new man in Christ
 - 2.1. both individually and corporately
 - 2.2. understand yourselves that way and conduct yourselves that way

How we have come to be one new man in Christ introduced earlier in chapter 2; we have been working through it the past few weeks. Today we come to the conclusion of that section. We have learned something of how it was done, now let us fix firmly in our minds the results of what has been done:

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, we, who used to be foreigners and strangers are now fellow citizens of the kingdom of God and members of the household of God.

Eph 2:12-13, 19 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. . . (19) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, we, who used to be foreigners and strangers are now fellow citizens of the kingdom of God and members of the household of God.

- I. What you were then: aliens and strangers (v. 12)
 - A. You were separated from Christ, without God
 - B. This separation included these two things
 1. being aliens from the citizenship of Israel
 2. being strangers from the covenants of promise (thus having no hope)

- C. Of course the apostle was writing to his generation of Christians in and around the city of Ephesus
- D. But it is true of all the Gentiles all over the world
- II. What has been done for you by God in the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 13)
 - A. You have been brought near by the blood of Christ
 - B. Remember all of this from these past several weeks
 - 1. the Lord Jesus has broken down the middle wall of separation, which was those old covenant ordinances that separated the Jews from the gentiles
 - 2. the wall broken down, the Lord Jesus made the two, Jew and Gentile, into one new man in Himself, thus making peace
 - 3. this one new man, the Lord Jesus reconciled to God by making propitiation for us by His blood shed on the cross
 - 4. the Lord Jesus then came and preached to us who were afar off, formerly Gentiles, and those who were near, formerly Jews
 - 5. the Lord Jesus Christ has granted us access together through Himself by the one Holy Spirit to God the Father
 - C. All of this is summed up in the statement of verse 13 that we have been brought near by the blood of Christ
- III. What you are now (v. 19)
 - A. No longer aliens, you are now citizens
 - 1. from verse 12: aliens or alienated from the “commonwealth” or “citizenship”
 - a) *apēllotriōmenoi tēs politeias*
 - 2. from verse 19: fellow citizens
 - a) *sunpolitai*
 - 3. so: not aliens from the citizenship, but fellow citizens; not aliens from the citizenship of Israel, but fellow citizens with the saints
 - B. No longer strangers, you are now members of the household
 - 1. from verse 12, you were strangers from the covenants of promise
 - a) for example, God promised to make a house or dynasty for David, and a kingdom that would be established forever
 - b) believing Israelites could put their hope in the great King, Messiah, Christ, who would be the fulfillment of that promise
 - c) in the past, we Gentiles were strangers to such covenant promises
 - d) now we are not strangers; we are members of the very house God promised to David
- IV. APPLICATIONS
 - A. v. 11 Remember all of this; think about it; meditate on it; have this be a major part of all your thinking about yourself, the Lord Jesus, God’s church
 - B. Delight yourself in all of this, especially in its wonderful contrast to present troubles

1. you live at present in a state and a republic where there is substantial trouble for the citizens; let the bright light of the joy of being a citizen with the saints dispel the gloom of the troubles with our temporary earthly citizenship
 2. you live at present in a household that is marred by sin; some of you live in households where there is major trouble, like divorce; others of you live in basically stable, loving households that yet have minor problems 100 at a time because the household suffers the effects of the sin of each member; let the temporary troubles you have with your present earthly household be outweighed by the wonderful happiness you enjoy as a member of the household of God
- C. Notice God's rule in all of this
1. You are now a fellowcitizen! Yes, and who is the ruler of this kingdom of which you are a citizen? The Lord Jesus Christ is our King.
 2. You are now a member of the household. Whose household? God is the head of the household.
 3. We, then, the church corporately, must trust God's wisdom in what He has commanded us and provided us with, and gladly obey
 4. You, then, each one individually, must seek to know and obey the laws of the kingdom, the rules of the household.
 - a) I love my king, and I love my fellow citizens; what are the laws of this kingdom, that I may obey them in love?
 - b) I love my adopted Father, and all the members of His household; what are the rules of His house, that I may obey them in gratitude?
- D. You who are still afar off, come near! Be reconciled to God! Turning your back on all your sin, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to give you entrance into the Kingdom and Household of our gracious God. Be a fellow citizen with the saints and an adopted son in the family of God.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, we, who used to be foreigners and strangers are now fellow citizens of the kingdom of God and members of the household of God.

example from the Roman authorities

- those who despised the Jews, Christ, and the Christians
- those who feared God, but were not circumcised, could not enter the temple proper

example from our times

- visitor who comes here as a tourist or student, for a certain time; he has no home here
- person who sneaks across the border illegally; finds a job and a place to live; lives here but doesn't belong here; isn't a citizen

Lush (acknowledging influence of Lloyd-Jones)

strong connection to 2:11-18

“stranger”

lived in a country as a visitor; temporary basis

“foreigner”

resident alien without national rights; long-term or permanent basis

Pictures of what the church is in relation to one another

“fellow citizens”

-not only are you allowed to live here, but you are fellow citizens with all others who believe

-see episode in Acts where the meeting of citizens in Ephesus is mentioned

“members of the household”

“building”

Phillips

“stranger”

not a citizen, just travelling through

“alien”

not a citizen, just a resident

JRY:

in the OT, circumcision of the flesh could make the alien to be as the native-born; in the NT, circumcision of the heart does the same!

APPLICATION:

soft

enjoy such a wonderful status
firm
remember this is God's household

KJV: aliens and strangers; strangers and foreigners

NIV: excluded from citizenship and foreigners; foreigners and aliens

ESV: alienated and strangers; strangers and aliens