

Family Privileges Ephesians 2:17-22

Introduction

NJFK—Citizenship Papers

¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The gospel is this: Jesus proclaimed peace—“preached” is literally, “evangelized”—to make a good or joyful announcement

This is the deciding event. It is good news proclaimed by Jesus Himself.

Access in one Spirit to the Father—a continuing living family relationship

Fellow citizens (*sumpolitai*) with the saints—no longer strangers (foreigners—

zenoi) and aliens (sojourners—alongside house)

polis—city

polites—citizen

sum—together with

sumpolitai—fellow citizens

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Members of the household of God

Not just a building—a house; but a household—the people in it.

In a world full of divisions, prejudices, and hatred among ethnic groups, different economic classes, educational background, attempts to dehumanize certain groups of people (not a modern phenomenon nor a thing only of the past)—DESPITE ALL BEING MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE—Christ unites all people into one family, one household over which God rules

This is closer yet than just being citizens of a kingdom, and it carries the idea of a loving connection than does a building.

In Ephesians 4 Paul will compare our unity to that of a physical body.

Foundation—apostles (sent ones) and prophets (hear from God and speak what they hear to people), Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone

The cornerstone sets the lines of the building; often a massive single stone—one excavated from the southern wall of the temple measured 38 feet nine inches in length

Joined together—the whole construction process of preparing stones and other materials so that they all fit together into one building

A holy temple built together

Into a dwelling place for God

By the Spirit

1 Peter 2:4-6

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For

it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

A temple is for worship—not just what we are doing for God—liturgy—worship service, but to display fellowship with God (Eden restored)—God dwelling in the midst of His people—the *shekinah* glory in the middle of the camp of the Israelites
God with us

At one time Gentiles were barred from even entering the temple precincts beyond the court of the Gentiles. Now they are built into the living temple itself.