

KNOWING WHAT YOU ARE & WHERE YOU BELONG

Part 16 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:19 **SLIDE**

*Now, therefore, you are **no longer strangers and foreigners**, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.*

Before we came to Christ, God considered you and me to be people **without any citizenship** ...

SLIDE WE WERE NOMANDS & WE DIDN'T BELONG ANYWHERE ...

We were without any homeland ...

Wandering aimlessly in a world of strangers and aliens ...

Lost without any rights or privileges ...

IN FACT BEFORE CHRIST CAME ...

THE ONLY CITIZENSHIP GOD CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE IN THIS EARTH WAS ...THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL ...

BECAUSE HE HAD ESTABLISHED IT (See Ephesians 2:12)

All others were **aliens and sojourners** ... or ... **not belonging anywhere** ...

Strangers = Aliens

It is as if we had dwelt in the waste and howling wilderness, scattered defenceless and in melancholy isolation ...

Foreigners = Sojourners - Residents but not citizens, a person dwelling in a place, but without any citizen rights and privileges ... resident aliens of an ancient city, who were but *half-aliens*, having free intercourse with the citizens, although no rights of citizenship. The latter word is used literally in [Acts 7:6](#); [Acts 7:29](#) ... ON THE OUTSKIRTS

Ephesians 2:19 **SLIDE**

[BUT] NOW [IN CHRIST WE] ARE no longer **strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens** with the saints and members of the household of God'**

1 Peter 2:9-10 **SLIDE**

*... You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him*

who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light ¹⁰ who once were not a people but **are now the people of God ...**

SO HERE I MUST SAY SOMETHING CONTROVERSIAL WHICH MAY **UPSET THE APPLE-CART & CAUSE ME TO LOSE MORE FRIENDS**

THIS NEW CITIZENSHIP IS NOT THE HISTORIC CITIZENSHIP OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

mentioned in Ephesians 2 verse 12 ...

Ephesians 2:12 KJV

... Without Christ [we were] aliens from The Commonwealth of Israel ...

NB: Because it is written, when we were without Christ we **were aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel**, it doesn't necessarily follow that now we are with Christ we have become citizens of **the Commonwealth of Israel**.

This is a reckless assumption ...

Yet many teach and have been taught this error.

TEACHING OF ERROR

~~In Christ, Gentiles have also become **citizens of Israel**.~~

~~No longer aliens to the commonwealth of Israel. That means that~~

~~Gentiles who are in Christ are now "**citizens**" (v. 19) of Israel.~~

~~To say it another way, both Old Testament and New Testament saints who are in union with Christ are **now citizens of Israel**.~~

~~John Hendryx~~

THIS IS SO WRONG

In verse 19, Paul is not telling us, we have become citizens of **the historic Commonwealth of Israel** ...

HE IS TELLING US, NOW WE ARE WITH CHRIST, **WE ARE CITIZENS OF A GREATER COMMONWEALTH.**

WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF GOD ... WITH OUR CITIZENSHIP BEING OF HEAVEN.

Philippians 3:20 NLT **SLIDE**

*But **we are citizens of heaven**, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Saviour.*

SLIDE WE HAVE A NEW CITIZENSHIP

- THE GENTILES HAD NO CITIZENSHIP
- THE JEWS HAD AN HISTORIC CITIZENSHIP
- NOW WE HAVE A HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP

THIS IS THE PEOPLE OF **NO CITIZENSHIP** ... AND THE PEOPLE OF **AN HISTORIC CITIZENSHIP** ... BECOMING ONE IN **A NEW HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP** ...

IN CHRIST ... THE GENTILES ARE NO LONGER WITHOUT ANY CITIZENSHIP

IN CHRIST ... THE JEWS ARE NO LONGER CITIZENS OF HISTORIC ISRAEL

(SEE MESSAGE: 'ONE NEW MAN', PART 12 OF EPHESIANS CHAPTER TWO)

Galatians 3:28 NIV **SLIDE**

*There is **neither Jew nor Gentile**, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 1:12-13 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*Giving thanks to the Father, the One having qualified you for the share of the inheritance of **the saints in light**,¹³ who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and **transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son**.*

We now belong to a greater commonwealth than the historic Commonwealth of Israel –

WE ARE NOW CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S SON ... A KINGDOM GREATER THAN ANY OTHER KINGDOM ... AN ETERNAL KINGDOM THAT WILL EVENTUALLY REIGN OVER ALL OTHER KINGDOMS IN THIS WORLD.

Daniel 7:14 Berean Study Bible

*And He [The Son of Man] was given dominion, glory, and kingship that the people of every nation and language should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and **His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed**.*

WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE HIGHEST ... THE GREATEST & MOST POWERFUL KINGDOM ... THAT EVER WAS & EVER WILL BE.

**SO, ARE YOU READY FOR
ANOTHER APPLE-CART TO BE UPSET?**

THE SAINTS

Ephesians 2:19 **SLIDE**

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with the saints** and members of the household of God.*

THE TERM 'THE SAINTS' HERE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT ISRAEL OR THE JEWS.

IT'S TALKING ABOUT BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS

For many years, and even today, I have heard people saying that this term 'The Saints' refers to Israel ...

THIS IS ANOTHER RECKLESS INTERPRETATION ... AND UNFOUNDED

This of course supports the theory that we are 'In The Commonwealth of Israel' with 'The Saints' ...

BUT AGAIN, IT IS ENTIRELY WRONG.

The word 'saint' - **Hagios** - means 'Holy', that is 'pure and separated to God Himself'

THE TERM 'THE SAINTS' does not and never has referred exclusively to Israel.

THE TERM 'THE SAINTS' is a **New Testament term** which was applied by Paul the apostle in his epistles.

IT IS THE DESIGNATION FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE BORN-AGAIN BELIEVERS

'The Saints' refers to us **who have a New Nature in Christ.** **You are now by nature a 'Saint'...** regenerated a with new holy nature ...

**THERE ARE NO SAINTS BY LAW ... ONLY SAINTS BY GRACE.
THERE ARE NO SAINTS BY WORKS ... ONLY SAINTS BY GRACE.**

LOOK HOW PAUL USES THE TERM IN HIS EPISTLES

1 Corinthians 1:2 **SLIDE**

*To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints** ...*

Romans 1:7 Berean Literal Bible

*To all those being in Rome beloved of God, **called saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

PAUL ALSO USES THIS TERM AT THE START OF EPHESIANS

Ephesians 1:1

To the saints ... and faithful in Christ Jesus

However, there are those who erroneously interpret this scripture by saying this refers to two categories of people.

They say there's 'the saints' who are the Jews and 'the faithful' who are the Gentiles ... effectively separating the two groups again.

Whereas IN THE BODY THERE IS ONLY ONE GROUP ... ONE

SPIRIT ... AND NO JEW OR GENTILE ANYMORE ...

ALL ARE CALLED 'SAINTS'.

1 Corinthians 12:13 English Standard Version

*For in **one Spirit** we were **all** baptized into **one body**—**Jews or Greeks**, slaves or free—and **all** were made to drink of **one Spirit**.*

WE ARE ALL CITIZEN-SAINTS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S SON.

SO LET ME PARAPHRASE OUR TEXT TO MAKE IT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND

Ephesians 2:19 Paraphrased **SLIDE**

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but **fellow citizens with all the other saints** who were former **Jews and Gentiles** and who are now members of the household of God.*

THIS IS THE NEW CITIZENSHIP WHERE WE ARE NO LONGER CALLED JEW OR GENTILE ...

WE ARE CALLED SAINTS

WE ARE CITIZEN-SAINTS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S SON.

BUT BOTH ARE EQUALLY UNITED IN **'THE NEW CITIZENSHIP' OF THE SAINTS**

YOU BELONG TO THE KINGDOM OF THE FATHER'S SON.

THIS IS YOUR HOME ... THIS IS YOUR COUNTRY ... THIS IS YOUR KINGDOM

**DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU TRULY BELONG?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU DON'T BELONG**

There is No Dual Citizenship in The Kingdom of God.

Once you become a born-again believer in Christ, you are no longer a Citizen of This World ... but an exclusive Citizen of The Kingdom of God ... and a true member of The Household of God. (Facebook Post)

**You do not belong any longer to this lost and dying world ...
We are foreigners in the world ... not at home there ...**

**IT IS RIGHT FOR YOU, A CITIZEN OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, TO
FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IN A WORLDLY GATHERING**

I used to go to work-parties ... But I was always aware I was different.

I was a foreigner to these people and they were to me. However, I did not feel intimidated. I was able to hold my own as a light in a dark place. Yes, they could tell I was different ... but that was good.

**IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO TRY & FIT IN WITH THE WORLD ...
TO TRY & GET THEIR APPROVAL
YOU ARE A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN ... A CHILD OF THE CREATOR
OF LIFE ... BORN AGAIN FROM A SUPERIOR POSITION & A SAINT
BY GRACE.**

**THE WORLD SYSTEM TO US NOW HAS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
OF BLASPHEMY ... EXPLETIVES ... SMUTTY STORIES & JOKES...
VALUES THAT ARE ALIEN TO US ...**

WE DO NOT BELONG THERE.

DON'T FIGHT THE FEELINGS OF BEING DIFFERENT

**BUT EMBRACE THEM & REJOICE THAT YOU HAVE A HEAVENLY –
SUPERIOR POSITION NOW.**

**WALK THIS WORLD WITH YOUR HEAD HELD HIGH & LET HIS
STRONG LOVE SHINE INTO THE DARKNESS ...**

SLIDE THE UGLY DUCKLING

A story about a cygnet-swan who is accidentally hatched with a family of ducklings. He is ridiculed and ostracized because they all

perceive him to be ugly. He wanders alone through the autumn and winter and suffers from fear, loneliness, and sadness until he realises he's actually a swan and doesn't belong with The Ducks ...

SO WE ARE 'SWANS OF GOD' ... NOT DUCKS OF THE WORLD.

You are a citizen of His Kingdom and belong to the Kingdom of God.

YOUR SAINTLY NATURE HAS A LONGING FOR YOUR HOMELAND

Your new saintly nature longs for the customs, for the culture of your homeland ... **to smell the air of your homeland ...** to connect with fellow citizens ... to fellowship with your family ...

LOOK AT HOW PEOPLE LONG FOR THEIR HOMELAND ...

HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD by Robert Browning

*Oh, to be in England ... Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England ... Sees, some morning, unaware*

SLIDE SCOTLAND by Sir Alexander Gray

*This is my country ... The land that begat me.
These windy spaces ... Are surely my own.
And those who here toil ... In the sweat of their faces
Are flesh of my flesh ... And bone of my bone.*

SLIDE A SHROPSIRE LAD by A.E. Housman

*Into my heart an air that kills ... From yon far country blows:
What are those blue remembered hills ... What spires, what farms
are those?
That is the land of lost content ... I see it shining plain,
The happy highways where I went ... And cannot come again.*

DON'T FIGHT YOUR NEW HEART ... IT'S LONGING FOR YOUR HOMELAND

DON'T DENY YOUR TRUE NATURE AS A TRUE SAINT OF GOD

Merilee disclosed that I was a 'Trekie'.

Yes, I have once again succumbed to the Sci-Fi series 'Voyager'.

SLIDE *Voyager came from The Alpha Quadrant but got sucked through a worm-hole into The Delta Quadrant ... **billions of lightyears from their home.***

*So week after week they are trying to **make it back home** to where they know they belong.*

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU BELONG?

One episode** (S6 E19 'Child's Play') was about a lost teenage boy who Voyager had rescued and brought back home to his planet, reuniting him with his parents. **SLIDE

He was telling his father that while he was on Voyager he had invented a device to detect 'Worm-holes'.

The father asked the son, 'How will that benefit them?'

He answered, 'It may help them find a way back to Earth.'

The mother asks, 'Why is that so important to them?'

The son says, 'It's their home! It's where they belong!'

SLIDE *The father muses, 'It's interesting, with all their technology and the opportunity to explore the galaxy ... **THE THING THAT THEY WANT THE MOST IS TO GET HOME!***

That's it friends ... This Kingdom is where our heart is.

It is our home ... the only place where our spirit and heart feel truly at home.

Here you will feel that overwhelming quiet but strong peace rising from within ... saying, 'Relax now ... you're home ... this is where you belong.'

When we finally arrive there on 'That Day' we will hear our Father – beaming – say, 'WELCOME HOME MY DEAREST ... COME IN ... I HAVE PREPARED A FEAST FOR YOU ... YOU ARE HOME AT LAST.'

Hebrews 12:22 **SLIDE**

*... You have come to Mount Zion and **to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels.***