

[Ephesians 2:19-22](#) "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

Introduction

As Christians, we have the incredible privilege of being declared "fellow citizens" with God's people and are cherished as his chosen people. Our heavenly citizenship gives us a new identity, strong defense, and purpose on our journey through this world. But even more than that, we become a part of God's family and share a special relationship with all who have faith in Jesus Christ. BE FAMILY is the magnificent invitation God gives us to experience this beautiful identity of those who follow Him.

God is transforming the world through the Church, the body of Christ. The Church is a spiritual building founded on apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself as its chief cornerstone. Each Christian contributes to the building of this sacred place, and the Holy Spirit of God fills the house and its inhabitants with His power. By living our lives together, the Lord builds this house, and through it, He is transforming the world.

Outline

Heavenly citizenship provides a new identity, protection, and makes you part of God's people and his plan in this generation.

Citizens of God's kingdom are also members of his family with royal privileges.

The strength of the structure depends on the foundation, so the household that rests on the word and depends on Jesus for stability and strength is secure.

As long as we live, we are part of God's plan for each other and the world.

God is transforming the world through his church which is alive with his power by the Spirit.

Application

Are you a citizen of the kingdom and a member of God's family?

What do you believe about the church?

Do you believe that you have a vital role to play in fulfilling God's plan through the local church?

Questions:

1. What are some of the benefits of citizenship? What are some of the obligations?
2. How would you identify a church that is built on the wrong foundation?
3. Read [Psalm 118:22](#) and [Isaiah 28:16](#). How does Jesus fulfill these passages?
4. Why do you think someone should join a local church? Are you a member of The Orchard? Why or why not?

5. Do you believe that you have a vital part to play in fulfilling God's plan through The Orchard? Why or why not? What do you believe that role is, and how does it function? If you are not involved, will you take the Next Step by speaking to a pastor or leader for guidance?