

“Is your Kingdom Citizenship current?”

Written April of 2015

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:20

Introduction

Pathfinder day is such a special day for all of us to see and experience our Youth learning and growing into an Army for the Lord. Last Saturday I had the privilege to preach at a Church in Kissimmee (*South of Orlando on March 28th*) for a special Youth program they were having and the Pathfinders were in charge of Praise and Worship as they were today.

The Scriptures tell us that: **“out of the lips of babes you have perfected Praise”**. What a blessings it has been to see the Youth of your Church presenting their Praise and Worship to the King of kings and Lord of lords!!!! Amen.

When I was (12) years old, a Pathfinder Club was started at the church I assisted as a young boy and seeing the Youth today being so involved and willing to serve brought back a lot of positive memories for me. Out of the few things that I remember of my Youth, Pathfinders was always positive memories for me.

You see I grew up in a household that was the opposite of sparing the rod. My childhood was a very volatile time for me due to the environment of physical abuse I grew up in. Sabbath morning my mom and dad were holy holy leaders of our church; but behind closed doors it was the complete opposite. I used to love going on camp-outs because I knew that my dad in particular would not dare hit us (my brother and I) in front of anyone from church. I grew up in a church filled with religious hypocrisy to say the least, which is why at age (17) I left my house and turned my back on God and became an Atheist for (11) years.

Pathfinders for me was a lifeline, an oasis in the middle of all that chaos for me. Church leaders, Pathfinder Director and instructors I implore you to stay the course and continue supporting the Pathfinder program (*Faith-based version of Boy scouts / Girl scouts*). You have no idea the impact you're making in the lives of these young people until those seeds years from now begin giving fruit.

This year I have a very important Anniversary coming up because on August 15th I am celebrating (10) YEARS that I have been Born Again and came back to the Lord. A lot of those seeds that were planted by the Instructors of my Pathfinder Club as a teenager were a big part of the reason of me coming back to Christ.

Church keep praying and supporting the Pathfinder Program it could mean life or death for any one of these Youth. **I thank God for those years I spent in the Pathfinder Club, and I thank God that I can be here today as an Ambassador of the Kingdom to bring you today's Message:** *“Is your Kingdom Citizenship Current?”*

Before we begin today's Message, please let's bow our heads to invite the Holy Spirit to be here with us, and illuminate our hearts, minds and spirit to His Truth.

Sermon

In order for us to understand the question that today's Sermon title is asking it is very important that we define the key word "**CITIZENSHIP**". This word comes from the root word **Citizen** so I will be defining both words in order for us to gain a better context of what this word means. Webster's dictionary defines it as the following:

- **Citizen** = a native or naturalized member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection.
- **Citizenship** = the act or state of being vested with the rights, privileges and duties of a citizen. Behaves in terms of the duties, obligations and functions of where they are a citizen (the country or place they are a Citizen in).

Now both of these definitions are a mouthful, but isn't interesting how one little word can have much deeper implications that what we might've thought. Today's title asks a simple yet extremely important question; and with the help of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures we will be able to answer: *"Is your Kingdom Citizenship Current?"*

When I think of the word "**Citizenship**" I think about how I was impacted by a Citizenship Ceremony that I was able to attend in Miami about (11) years ago. I never knew that you had to study a list of facts about our Government in the USA and be able to answer questions pertaining to it, in order to get your US Citizenship. However, at the end of this Ceremony there were hundreds of people swearing allegiance to the United States and what it stands for.

By the end of the ceremony every person was waving a miniature American Flag and they had tears in their eyes, some were taking pictures with family members and others were even dancing from the joy they had of finally being called a US citizen. I overheard many saying that now they are officially a part of the "Land of the Free", some were saying "I LOVE AMERICA" and others were saying God Bless this Nation.

It really wasn't until that day that I realized what a privilege it was to be a US Citizen and that no matter where in the World I traveled, that my Citizenship was in the United States of America. I gave you this example today so that you can better understand the context of the word: "**CITIZENSHIP**".

Jesus through His entire Ministry, tried in so many different ways to help us understand the privilege it is to be a Citizen of the Kingdom. Let's turn in our Bibles to the Gospel of John for one of the most quoted text when it comes to this subject; yet very few truly understand the depth of what Christ is trying to convey to us and teach us. **John 15:18, 19** says:

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” NKJ

Jesus tried in so many different ways to help us understand what an Honor it is to call ourselves “Christian” or a “Citizen of the Kingdom” and explicitly tells us **“WE ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD”**.

Paul expresses the same thing through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our **Scripture Reading** that was given today found in **Philippians 3:20**. I will read it from the **New Living Translation** which is closer in meaning to the original Greek Translation and says:

“For we are citizens of Heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.” NLT

Now the question of the day is: **HOW DO I BECOME A CITIZEN OF THE KINGDOM???** Don't be surprised to hear this, but you were not the only ones with that same question. Someone with an extremely high position during Bible times had a similar question let's turn in our Bibles to **John 3:3, 5-7**.

Jesus is telling Nicodemus that he ***“can't even see the Kingdom unless he is Born Again”*** in **Verse 3**; and in **Verse 5** Jesus gives him the simple formula on how to be Born Again and in **Verse 6** He plainly explains to him the importance of the Born Again Experience. **Verse 7** Jesus tells him don't be surprised that he must be Born Again.

Let's flip back a page in your Bible to **John 1:12, 13** which says:

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He Power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” NKJ

Because we are Born of the Spirit through the Born Again Experience we are grafted onto the Vine and our Inheritance is restored to us as Sons and Daughters of the King. This act of being Born Again doesn't just happen on the day we get baptized. **Paul** tells in: **I Corinthians 15:31** that ***“daily we must die”*** to self and receive a fresh Baptism of the Spirit and ask for the ***“Armor of God”*** to be upon us (*spiritually*).

Paul also tells us in **Romans 6:4** that when this happens for us, we ***“walk in newness of life”***. **The Born Again Experience not only makes us a Citizen of the Kingdom, but also sanctifies our flesh so that the King Himself dwells in us.** However daily we **MUST** purge ourselves of sin and invite Jesus to live in our hearts.

The benefit of being a Citizen of the Kingdom through the Born Again Experience is that we have the Honor and Privilege to be AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST IN THIS WORLD.

Brothers and Sisters this is the focal point of today's Message, because our Youth need our help and support to understand the depth of what being an **"Ambassador for Christ"** means. Let's quickly define the word **"Ambassador"** and its meaning here in the Physical Dimension.

- **Ambassador** = an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country.

Now the best way we can understand the role of any Ambassador is in understanding how an Embassy works and Operates. This is an example that I used three years ago on a sermon titled **"Have you forgotten your Inheritance"** but it is a perfect example that fits into us understanding the word **"Ambassador"** better.

Suppose you are a U.S. Citizen and you go to live and work in a foreign country, in the U.S. Embassy of that Country; you then become an Ambassador (*Representative*) of the United States in that Country. That basically means that even though that Country has its own laws and regulations they must follow, you are not bound **LEGALLY** by those laws.

This is because whatever ground or area that has been declared the U.S. Embassy, is considered United States territory or soil. This means you are entitled to all the rights and privileges a U.S. Citizen has. As an Ambassador you represent the Country, Culture, Customs and Values of where you originate from, which in this example is the United States. So in essence that U.S. Embassy becomes a mini-version of the United States in a foreign Country even though you are not physically in the United States and the USA is thousands miles away.

It is vital that you understand and embrace the fact that you become an Ambassador of the Kingdom when you are Born Again. As an Ambassador of the Kingdom we are not bound by this World, Country or Place we are in.

Our Citizenship is in the Kingdom of Glory, in Heavenly places; which entitles us to all the Rights and Privileges the Blood of Christ has purchased for us. By Christ dying on the Cross He re-established our Citizenship again with the King (*Almighty God*). This means that wherever we go, we should carry and manifest the Culture of the Kingdom. ***"We are in this World, but not of this World."***

By definition we are Gods' official representatives in this World. We shouldn't get caught up in the non-sense of this world young people; we should be caught up in bringing Honor and Glory to the King of kings and Lord of lords!!!

*******Please listen up because it is imperative that you hear this and perceive this church; satan has a modern disguise for himself and most professed "Christians" have fallen asleep to the Holy Spirit to a degree that they blindly follow satan and don't even realize it. Satan has disguised himself through technology and even holidays.

Adults listen up because we MUST, on a daily basis ask God to sharpen our Spiritual Senses so that we can see right through satans modern disguise. I will list some of them for you:

- This is Passover weekend, are we more focused on Christ Sacrifice on the Cross; **OR** the Easter bunny and Easter egg hunts.
- Do we focus more on buying Christmas gifts and decorating; **RATHER** than in honoring the fact that God sent Jesus to be born to save us from our sins.
- Do we allow our children to watch Harry Potter, Vampire Diaries, Sexualized reality shows and participate in Halloween activities because it's cute or cool to do; **OR** do we see with spiritual vision that these activities open the door to satan through witch craft and demonic over-tones.
- Do we allow our children to play video games that promote violence and killing all for the sake of a few quiet minutes; **OR** are we waking up to the reality that never before has there been such an epidemic of school shootings.
- Are we letting our young people surf the internet alone; **OR** have you come to the conclusion that satans number one weapon against our youth is the internet.
- Are we aware of the music and movies our young people are watching; **OR** do we blindly trust do we trust more in their developing judgement that they aren't any demonic gateways being opened to our children's spirit and soul? **Come parents when are we going to realize that we are STEWARDS over our children in the Eyes of God.**

The list can go on and on, but it boils down to this. As the Body of Christ...are we sending our young people spiritually naked into the world because we have not taken the time to help them understand how to equip them with the ARMOR OF GOD??? Have we taught them how to be an AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST????

Parents do you know right now beyond a shadow of a doubt that your children are saved? How you taught them enough to help them reach Salvation?

The battle was won for us two thousand years ago on the Cross on Calvary My dear Brothers and Sisters. **If your KINGDOM CITIZENSHIP is current, then God dwells in you.** Father, Son and Holy Ghost ALL live in you. The totality of the Kingdom lives in you. The GREAT I AM, lives in you!!!! **We have nothing to fear...**

Closing

Let's read our final three text to conclude today's Message. The first is found in:

- **Isaiah 54:17**. Brothers let me emphasize what this text is telling us, ***“NO weapon formed against us shall EVER prosper”***.
- Paul tells us in **Romans 8:31** ***“If God be for us who dare be against us”***. There is POWER behind these declarations, AMEN.
- The last text is found in: **Psalms 27:1** and in my opinion should be everyone's battle-cry most importantly our Youth. This text tells us ***“Whom shall I fear”***.

Young people when you're faced with temptations, peer pressure, depressions, low self-esteem, bullying or any kind of problem or issue declare ***“WHOM SHALL I FEAR”!!! “IF GOD BE WITH US, WHO DARE BE AGAINST US!!*** God is always with you, invite him to be THE Lord of your life, not your cell phone or Facebook feed; and these promises and many more in Scripture will be your WEAPONS AGAINST SATAN.

Altar Call

As this final song plays by **Chris Tomlin** ***“Whom shall I fear”*** meditate on the lyrics and if you would like to come forward and declare this battle cry together with our young people, I invite you to come forward and declare that satan and his demons are defeated.

Declare that our Young People will grow in Spiritual discernment and that they will have a true encounter with the Holy Spirit and be Born Again so that they can all become true Ambassadors for Christ. Amen!!!