**Status Privileges of the Royal Family**

**Status**

**First Born** – Heb 1:6; Rom 8:29; Rev 1:5 **Child of Promise** – Rom 9:8-9

**Son of God** – Gal 3:26; Rom 8:14-16; Jn 1:12-13 **Brothers** – Rom 1:13; 1Thes 1:4; Heb 2:9-12

**Son of Light** – Eph 5:8-9; Col 1:12-13 **Beloved** – Rom 1:7; Eph 1:6; Col 3:12

**New Species** – 2Cor 5:17; Col 3:10-11; Gal 6:14-16 **Elect** – Eph 1:4-5; 1Pt 1:1-2

**Righteous** – 2Cor 5:21; Rom 5:21; 1Jn 2:1 **Eternal Life** – Jn 11:25-27; 1Jn 5:11-13

1. Our union with Christ has made us part of His body and members of the Royal Family of God
2. As members of the Royal Family of God, all believers share these positions and possessions.
3. Each position, firstborn, child, son, brothers& beloved are descriptions of our place in the royal family in relation to God-Father, the Lord Jesus and one another.
4. Each possession, eternal life, righteousness & our new spiritual capacities describe our relationship to eternity, to the righteous Judge and to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
5. These terms describe our relationship with God from different angles, emphasizing different aspects.

**Firstborn - Heb 1:6; Rom 8:29; Rev 1:5**

1. **Only Jesus** is the firstborn and our status of union with Him means we share His blessings.

**Romans 8:29** for whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

1. God-Father raised Jesus from the dead first, making Him the leader over all of His brothers/sisters
2. He is the head of the church, His body & bride, overseeing the work of defeating the forces of evil

**Hebrews 2:11** for both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brothers.

1. **Jesus the firstborn**

Mt 1:25 – He was the firstborn of Mary – she had other children

Col 1:15 – He is firstborn over all creation – the head human over all of the creation

Col 1:18 – firstborn from the dead – He is the first one to be resurrected

Heb 1:6 – Jesus will still possess the title firstborn when He returns

Heb 12:23 – we are called the church of the firstborn – Church of Jesus Christ

**Revelation 1:5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood

**Son of God – Gal 3:26; Rom 8:14-16; Jn 1:12-13**

1. **All who trust in the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ are made sons of God.**

**Gal 3:26** for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

1. Son – huios – adult sons with access to divine assets – ministry of the Spirit +promises of God

**John 1:12** as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1. The writer equated receiving Him with believing in His name – believing Jesus was the Messiah
2. Those who believe in Him are given the right/authority to be adopted as a child of God

**Romans 8:14** for all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God**. 15 For you have not received a spirit (message) of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit (promise) of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit we are children of God

1. From His base of operations indwelling the believer’s body, the Holy Spirit guides every believer.
2. Received a spirit – pneuma – message leading to slavery or message of adoption
3. Having been adopted into God’s family, every believer shares the title son of God.
4. The Holy Spirit speaks assurance to our human spirit that we belong to God.

**Brothers**

1. **Definition & Description** – Greek ***adelphos*** – male blood sibling, a male member of Jewish society; a male or female member of God’s family – the church of Jesus Christ
2. Brothers - Mt 4:18 Peter and Andrew were brothers; Mt 4:21 James & John were brothers
3. Christians – Mt 5:22-24 be reconciled to your brother; Mt 18:21-22 forgive brother 7x70; 1Cor 1:1 Sosthenes, our brother; 2Cor 1:1 Timothy, our brother
4. Different issues and admonitions regarding brothers in the Lord.
5. Spiritual brothers and sisters should be treated as valued family members
6. Mt 5:21-22 – avoid mental, verbal & violent sins toward your brother
7. Mt 5:23-24 – when you do have a conflict or an offense with a brother, leave worship to reconcile
8. Mt 18:15-17 – if a brother sins against you confront him to resolve the offense
9. Mt 18:21-22 – forgive your brother every time he sins against you
10. Mt 18:23-35 – if you refuse to forgive your brother his debt against you God will discipline you
11. Rom 14-15 – don’t judge a weaker brother, protect him from your freedoms
12. 1Thes 4:6 – don’t take advantage of your brother in practical matters – ***pragmata***
13. 2Thes 3:6 – remain aloof from fellow believers who are not walking with the Lord
14. 2Thes 3:14-15 – don’t associate with believers not following the word, admonish them as a brother
15. Jam 2:15-16 – assist a brother in dire financial need

**1 John 2:9-10** The one who says he is in the light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now. **10** The one who loves his brother abides in the light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

**1 John 3:17** But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

**1 John 4:20** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

**1 John 4:21** And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

**Child of Promise – Rom 9:8-9, Gal 3:1-29, 4:28-31**

1. **God made a series of promises to Abraham, progressively revealing that he would become the father of God’s people & finally that Messiah (the seed) would come through Isaac & bless all nations.**

**Genesis 12:3** and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. **And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."**

**Genesis 15:1-6** after these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." 2 And Abram said, "O Lord God, what wilt Thou give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Since Thou hast given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who shall come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your seed be." 6 **Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

**Genesis 18:9** Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "Behold, in the tent." 10 And he said, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. 12 And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" 13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear *a child*, when I am *so* old?' 14 "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." 15 Sarah denied *it* however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."

Abraham offers Isaac as a sacrifice in obedience to God:

**Genesis 22:15** Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

1. The word seed (Heb ***zera*** – Grk ***sperma***) is an important code word going back to Gen 3:15, the first promise of the Messiah to Eve – seed of the woman 🡪 Seth 🡪 Noah 🡪 Abraham
2. Over time, God progressively reveals to Abraham that he will be the father of the Messiah and the Jewish nation that He will use to reveal His plan to redeem mankind.
3. Abraham believed God’s promises and his faith in God’s promises was counted as righteousness, meaning he was saved by trusting what God said.
4. These promises given to Abraham by which he was saved were given long before the Mosaic Law was given and even before the rite of circumcision, which was a symbol of faith.
5. In the time of Jesus and Paul, many of the Jews of Israel had falsely concluded that they were saved simply because they were blood related to Abraham.
6. Paul will make the distinction between those who were Abraham’s bloodline who were children of the Law and those who had trusted the gospel promise and were children of promise.

**Romans 9:6-9** But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; 7 neither are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "through Isaac your descendants will be named." 8 That is, it is not the **children of the flesh** who are children of God, but the **children of the promise** are regarded as descendants. 9 For this is a word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son.

* Paul explains that being a genetic child of Abraham does not save you, but being a child who believes the promise of God like Abraham is what saves you.

**Galatians 3:1-29** You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed *as* crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain-- if indeed it was in vain? 5 Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, "All the nations shall be blessed in you." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer. 10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them." 11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith." 12 However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "He who practices them shall live by them." 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree "-- 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. 15 Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is *only* a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. 16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. 17 What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. 18 For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise. 19 Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed should come to whom the promise had been made. 20 Now a mediator is not for one *party only*; whereas God is *only* one. 21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. 22 But the Scripture has shut up all men under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor *to lead us* to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

**Galatians 4:28-31** And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, so it is now also. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman." 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.