**20 Status Privileges in Christ**

**Priesthood: 1Pt 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6 Living Stone/Temple: 1Pt 2:4-8; Eph 2:19-22**

**Ambassadors: 2Cor 5:18-20; Eph 6:15, 20 Body of Christ/Church: 1Cor 12:12-27; Eph 1:22-23**

**Citizen/Heaven: Phil 3:20; Eph 2:19 Bond Slave/Christ: Gal 1:10; Eph 6:6-8; 1Pt 2:16**

**Escrow Inheritance: Eph 1:3; Col 1:12; 1Pt 1:3-4 Joint Heirs/Christ: Rom 8:17; Gal 4:7; Act 20:32**

**Royal Ambassadorship**

1. **Definition & Description**: a representative, a messenger, official envoy; diplomatic agent of a government or king, functioning as a representative of his/her government, while living in a foreign land.

* Every believer is a citizen of heaven (Eph 2:19, Phil 3:20), left on earth after salvation to represent Christ

1. Ambassadors don’t appoint themselves – appointed by Jesus at the point of salvation
2. He/she is not responsible to provide their own support – supported by the Lord.

***Mat 6:25****-33"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.* ***33*** *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

1. Does not belong to the place where he is sent – we are sojourners – just passing through

***1 Peter 2:11*** *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.*

1. Ambassador doesn’t represent himself – represent Christ with the message of reconciliation
2. Ambassador has secret instruction in written form – bible is intelligible to the unbeliever

***1 Cor 2:14*** *the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

1. Rejection & insults against the king or His message are not personal

**Luke 21:17** you will be hated by all for my name's sake.  ***John 15:18*** *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you*.

1. When ambassadors are recalled out of the foreign country back to their own, it is tantamount to war.

* When the rapture occurs, the Tribulation will begin & God will judge evil on the earth

1. Ministry of an Ambassadorship Described: 2Cor 5:17-21

***2 Cor 5:17-21*** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

1. **The Message of a Christian Ambassador – Reconciliation 2Cor 5:17-21**

***17*** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a unique spiritual species. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

1. New Unique Species – Only the Church Age believer is Indwelt by the Holy Spirit, in union with Christ
2. Unique Capacities given by the Holy Spirit

* **Rom 8:11** – Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

**1 Cor 6:*19*** *do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

* Filling of the Holy Spirit – fully influenced by the Spirit

**Eph 5:18** *do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,*

* Enlightenment of the Holy Spirit – illumination

**Eph 1:18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

* Empowered by the Holy Spirit – spiritual functions – spiritual gift, discernment

**Eph 1:19-20** *and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places*

* Led & guided by the Holy Spirit

**Romans 8:14** *for all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

1. Unique Results – imitators of God

* Understand the beliefs & value system of Jesus

**1 Cor 2:10-16** *for to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 15 But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. 16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

* Embrace the beliefs & values of Jesus as our own

**Eph 4:23-24** *and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness from the truth.*

* Operate with the beliefs & values of Jesus in our relationships – fruit of the Spirit

**Gal 5:22-23** *but the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

1. *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;*
2. Reconciliation

**Definition & Description: *katallasso*** - make a friend out of an enemy Ro 5:10; Ac 12:22, 1 Cor 7:11; one ceases to be angry with another and receives him into favor; God ceases to be offended, whose sins he pardons and grants his favor anew; to be restored to the favor of God,

**Rom. 5:10** *for if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.* ***2 Cor. 5:18-19*** *now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the logical message of reconciliation.*

1. All members of the human race are born in Adam, behind the barrier as enemies of God

***Rom 5:10*** *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

***Eph 2:14****-****16*** *for He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.*

1. Having transferred us from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of the beloved Son, God reconnects the believer to Himself by placing us into union with Christ.

**The propitious (satisfactory) payment for sins by Christ on the cross provided the means of our forgiveness, redemption, cleansing, sanctification, justification and reconciliation.**

**Reconciliation with God is the basis of our eternal judicial peace with God**

***Col 1:20*** *and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

***Eph 2:14*** *For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,*

1. Peace with God – result of reconciliation
2. Peace of God – result of Holy Spirit’s ministry

***Rom 5:1*** *therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

**The mechanics of reconciliation**

Penalty of sin is removed – Col 2:14, 1Jn 2:2

Spiritual death is made into spiritual life – Tit 3:5

Unrighteousness is made into righteousness – Rom 4:1-5

Position in Adam changed to union with Christ – 1Cor 12:13, 1Cor 15:22. 2Cor 5:17

*19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world [****kosmos****] to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and placing in us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors of Christ, as though God is making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

* We beseech you & encourage you to trust the gospel & be reconciled to God

21 *He made Him who had no sin to be sin in our place that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

1. **The Life of an Ambassador of Christ is intended to manifest the virtues of Christ.**

***1 Peter 2:9*** *But you are a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy race, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*

1. Chosen Race/Family: ***genos*** – chosen in Christ to be part of the Royal Family of God
2. Royal Priesthood – in Christ who is the high priest of the church
3. Holy Race – a unique group indwelt by the Holy Spirit, in union with Christ
4. People belonging to God – bought with the price of the blood of Christ
5. Proclaim – ***exangello*** – message outward - Aor Subj – potential depending upon bel’s volition
6. Virtues – ***arête*** – the mind-set of a hero who sacrifices himself for the sake of others
7. Love – agape – Unconditional mind-set of commitment to only edify others, never do harm – commitment that harnesses and utilizes all other fruits of the Spirit

**Col 3:12-14** and so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved

* Recognize who you are in Christ – chosen in Christ, imputed +R, having been loved

3:8 – take off - put on: spiritual virtues: a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

14 And over all these things *put on* love, which is the bond of completeness.

* Over ***– epi*** – **upon** these other virtues put on agape love
* Bond – chain, tie – something that binds one thing to another; Act 8:23 bound to unrighteousness;

Eph 4:3 unity of the Spirit, the bond of peace; Col 2:19 ligaments holding the body together

* Completeness – ***teleiotes*** – perfection, maturity – that which has fulfilled its design or purpose

1. **Christian ambassadors, citizens of heaven, serve in the foreign country of the world.**

***John 17:15-21*** *I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

* Our mission is to unbelieving humans who are required to choose what they will believe about Christ.
* Every person who reaches God consciousness & the age of accountability is required to decide their destiny by choosing to believe or reject the gospel – 1Cor 15:3-4
* The church & its ambassadors are tasked with delivering the message through word & deed through which the destiny of every person in the entire human race will be determined.