

# Citizenship

## *Ephesians 2:19*

**Introduction:** Citizenship gives a person a feeling of belonging. It establishes a majority of our identity. One of the things they used to teach in school was citizenship (whether they do now or not is beyond my knowledge, though I doubt it). Citizenship consisted of observing the laws, fulfilling one's duty and meeting responsibilities. When doing so the benefits of citizenship could be enjoyed. As Christians we have a dual citizenship. Let's study that.

### **I. First, There Is Our National Citizenship.**

#### **A. Acts 22:25-29—“This man is a Roman.”**

1. The claim is to Roman citizenship.
2. One man bought it - the other was born Roman.
3. There were special privileges of citizenship ... even in judicial matters. Romans had privileges over and different from “aliens” (non-Romans).

#### **B. We are citizens of the United States of America.**

1. On this earth there are few greater privileges!
2. The amazing freedom, system, wealth of this Country are almost “mythical” in many foreign minds.
3. Our citizenship should be cherished!

### **II. Second, There Is Our Spiritual Citizenship.**

#### **A. This is a glorious citizenship (*Eph. 2:6*).**

1. Citizens of the kingdom of heaven.
  - a. Christ as King (*1 Tim. 6:15*).
  - b. Gospel as law (*Gal. 6:2*).
2. “**Book of life**” registers the citizens (*Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:3*). God has written the names in this Book.

#### **B. Here we are “sojourners” and “pilgrims” (*1 Peter 2:11*).**

1. “**Sojourners**”.
  - a. We are “**strangers**” or “**foreigners**” because our conduct is different than that of others.
  - b. Shining “**as lights in the world**” (*Phil. 2:15*).
2. “**Pilgrims**”.
  - a. Song—“*This world is not my home, I'm just passing through.*”
  - b. On our way to the “**everlasting kingdom**” (*2 Peter 1:11*).

- C. Our citizenship is centered in the place:
1. From which Christ shall come (**Phil. 3:20**).
  2. Where Christ sits on the throne (**Col. 3:1**).
  3. Prepared and promised for us (**Jn. 14:1-6**).

**Conclusion:** Dual citizenship may, at times, present a dilemma. Which one do I give the pre-eminence? The New Testament has the answer, **“We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29)**. Spiritual citizenship is always to prevail.

Have you obeyed God? Are you obeying God? Are you a citizen of the kingdom?