

Reading: Eph 1:1-13; 4:1; 5:1-8

The Big Idea: From Romans to Jude we have letters from the King to his citizens reminding them what it is to be a citizen and what is expected of them.

1. Citizenship is a free gift - it cannot be earned

- Mercy = Not getting what we deserve
- Grace = Getting what we don't deserve
- We can belong only because Jesus took what we deserved, and gave us what we couldn't ever deserve.
- Belonging is a gift not a reward - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith ... not by works, so that no-one can boast." Eph 2:8,9

2. Know what you are - You are Citizens of God's Kingdom

"Our greatest hindrance in the Christian life is not our lack of effort, but our lack of acquaintedness with our privileges." – John Owen

- *Chosen* by God the Father – 1:4
 - You were loved from before the world began
- *Adopted* by God the Father – 1:5,6
 - There are no second class citizens in God's Kingdom
- *Released* from guilt and power of sin by Jesus Christ – 1:7-12
 - Jesus has paid for your guilt
 - You are no longer a prisoner to the patterns of your past
- *Guaranteed* by the Holy Spirit – 1:13,14
 - You will enjoy God's blessings forever in Heaven

3. Be what you are - Live as Citizens of God's Kingdom

Kingdom Citizens are to:-

- Be changed by God's standards - "Put on the new self" – 4:24
- Demonstrate God's love – 5:2
- Live pure lives - "Not even a hint ... improper for God's holy people" – 5:3
- Work at relationships – 5:22-6:9
- Fight sin & temptation – 6:11
- Proclaim the Good news – 6:19,20

Next sermon: The Return of the King

Readings for next week: Rev 19-22

Opening Psalm 68:9-18