

CITIZEN-MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD PART 17 EPHESIANS CHAPTER TWO

Ephesians 2:19 **SLIDE**

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God.***

LAST WEEK WE SAW WE ARE CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

This happened the moment we believed in Our Lord Jesus Christ ... when we instantly became **citizens of the Kingdom of God which is now our Homeland.**

So we are citizens of *a Sacred State – a Holy Homeland – a Christ-Centred Country ...* where we are *‘Saint-citizens’ with a new regenerated saintly nature.*

In fact, **without that saintly nature you couldn't belong to this Kingdom or even see this Glorious Kingdom.**

John 3 NLT

... Unless you are born again you cannot (even) see the Kingdom of God.

(See this sermon entitled 'KNOW WHAT YOU ARE AND WHERE YOU BELONG' posted 7th November, 2021 on [Facebook.com/NewCreationChurchQld](https://www.facebook.com/NewCreationChurchQld))

TODAY WE SEE PAUL DEVELOPING THIS CONCEPT ...

As if he says, *‘That’s only one view of ‘**Christ’s Church**’ – This kingdom view is **the platform** upon which we can stand to really begin to understand more of what we have been brought into.*

NOW I NEED TO EXPAND YOUR THINKING ... to show you more ... in order that you might get a fuller and truer understanding of this great universal Church to which you belong ... and so you will see more of what it is actually like.’

SO PAUL EXPANDS THE CONCEPT ...

TAKING US SOMEWHERE WE HAVE NEVER BEEN BEFORE.

Paul tells us, *‘This new entity of which you are now a citizen, **IS NOT A NORMAL KINGDOM.***

It’s not like the kingdom of Persia ...

It’s not a normal country like the country of *Australia or Great Britain.*

THIS KINGDOM / COUNTRY IS A HOUSEHOLD.

IT IS A HOUSEHOLD-KINGDOM.'

IT'S NOT JUST 'LIKE' A HOUSEHOLD! IT IS A HOUSEHOLD

THIS KINGDOM DOES NOT JUST CONTAIN A HOUSEHOLD ...

THIS KINGDOM IS A HOUSEHOLD.

THIS IS A 'HOUSEHOLD-KINGDOM'.

**AND WE SAINTLY-CITIZENS OF THIS KINGDOM ARE ALSO ALL
FAMILY MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSEHOLD.**

SLIDE GOD'S KINGDOM IS ACTUALLY FAMILY

This is something completely new – a totally new concept ... something never seen or heard of before in Scripture ...

IT IS A HOUSEHOLD-KINGOM

TO TAKE THIS EVEN FURTHER WE CAN SAY ...

**THE HEAD OF THIS KINGDOM – THIS COUNTRY – THIS EMPIRE –
IS NOT A MONARCH ... NOT AN EMPEROR ... NOT A POLITICAL
LEADER ... A PRESIDENT ... OR DICTATOR ...**

THE HEAD OF THIS KINGOM IS A LOVING FATHER ...

Remember how Jesus taught us to pray ...

Matthew 6:9-10 & 13 SLIDE

***Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom
come ...***

***¹³... For Yours [Father] is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.***

**THE LOVING FATHER IS THE HEAD OF THIS HOUSEHOLD-
KINGDOM**

SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US

- **THIS MEANS THIS KINGDOM IS NOT HELD TOGETHER
BY THE RULE OF LAW ...
BUT BY THE LOVE OF OUR FATHER**

Every state, country, empire or kingdom has a strong rule of law ...
usually written in a constitution.

For example: When a person takes an oath of allegiance for
citizenship ... they pledge allegiance to **the laws of the land.**

AUSTRALIA

'From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and **whose laws I will uphold and obey.**'

USA

'I hereby declare, on oath ... that **I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America** so help me God.'

ENGLAND

'I do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**, her heirs and successors, **according to law. So help me God.**'

A COMMONWEALTH IS HELD TOGETHER BY **COMMON LAW** OR A CONSTITUTION ... TO KEEP PEOPLE IN LINE & FUNCTIONING.

THAT LAW IS THEN ENFORCED ... AND THOSE WHO DISOBEY CAN LOSE ALL THEIR RIGHTS & PRIVILEGES & CAN BE IMPRISONED.

BUT THIS IS NOT SO OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS A VERY UNIQUE GOVERNANCE NEVER BEFORE SEEN.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS BOUND TOGETHER IN DIVINE LOVE – **AGAPE LOVE.**

Song of Solomon 2:4 **SLIDE**

*He brought me to the banqueting house and **His banner over me was love.***

There is **no written law or constitution** in the kingdom of God and His Son ... no law enforcement ...

God has transcended all law and replaced it with '**THE HOUSEHOLD' OF LOVE.**

THE LAW WAS ALWAYS ONLY A WEAK EXPRESSION OF THE LOVE OF GOD

Matthew 22:37-40 **SLIDE**

*Jesus said to him, "**You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**"³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: '**You shall love***

your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.** (See Deuteronomy 6:5)

Galatians 5:14 Berean Literal Bible

For the entire Law is fulfilled in this one word: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

IN THIS HOUSEHOLD ... THERE IS NO POLICE FORCE ... NOTHING IS EVER FORCED ...

So you say, 'Well that sounds like a right "free-for all" – total anarchy ... a right mess ...'

No friend. Love fulfils The Law. Love organically keeps The Law.

Romans 13:8-10 NIV **SLIDE**

*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for **whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.** ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. **Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.***

**THIS KIND OF LOVE IS AGAPE LOVE
THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

AGAPE –

**LOVE THAT GIVES OF ITSELF FOR ANOTHER'S GOOD
NOT WANTING ANYTHING IN RETURN**

John 3:16 ESV

For God so loved [Agape] ... He gave His Only Son ...

A pastor went to the hospital to visit Maggy, one of his members. She was in the last stages of her life because of cancer and was heavily medicated, and unresponsive.

When he got there, he saw Maggy's daughter, Kimmy putting lotion on her mother's body. She started at the feet and worked up ... rubbing it in to keep her comfortable.

This was an expensive lotion and normally more than Kimmy could afford. But Kimmy gave a mischievous smile and made the pastor promise not to tell her children. She said, her children had given

the lotion to her for Mother's Day saying, 'Mum, you never do anything for yourself. You're always giving to others.'

So Kimmy kept on rubbing this precious soothing lotion on her dear mother's body, giving it to her, to ease her suffering, even though her mother remained unresponsive and was unable to thank her.

THIS IS AGAPE LOVE ... IT GIVES EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN.

JESUS WAS THE ONE WHO DEMONSTRATED THIS LOVE TO US ... THERE WAS SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL ABOUT JESUS THE MAN.

LOVE EMANATED FROM HIM BECAUSE HE CONTINUALLY GAVE OF HIMSELF TO OTHERS.

THIS KIND OF LOVE FLOWS FROM THE FATHER THROUGHOUT HIS KINGDOM TO ALL HIS FAMILY MEMBERS.

WE ARE BEGOTTEN INTO LOVE ...

AND SURROUNDED BY LOVE ...

THIS KIND OF LOVE **SHOULD FLOW THROUGH & FROM ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS **TO ONE ANOTHER****

1 John 4:10-11 Berean Study Bible

... He [The Father] loved us and sent His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

*¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, **we also ought to love one another.***

BUT YOU SAY, HOW CAN I LOVE MY FELLOW CHURCH MEMBERS LIKE THAT ...

I AM JUST TOO SELF-CENTERED.

I have too many issues with people.

All people annoy me ... I criticise people all the time.

I criticised the lady who would never sing ... Then she started to sing and I repented of ever having criticised her for not singing.

Now I criticise her for singing.

Much criticism is just the lust of the flesh ... the discontent of dissatisfaction we turn on others ... while our flesh acts all religious.

FRIENDS ... THIS IS NOT TALKING ABOUT TRYING TO GET YOUR FLESH TO START LOVING LIKE CHRIST ... THAT IS TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE ...

JOHN IS NOT SAYING, TRY & FOLLOW THE FATHER'S EXAMPLE OF HOW WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER ... (WE ALL FAIL AT THAT)

JOHN IS SAYING THE FATHER IS OUR SOURCE OF AGAPE LOVE AND HE HAS ALREADY GIVEN YOU A RESERVOIR OF LOVE INSIDE YOU.

KNOW THIS LOVE IS ALREADY IN YOU.

Romans 5:5 SLIDE

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

YOU CANNOT LOVE LIKE GOD WITHOUT HAVING GOD'S LOVE IN YOU.

BUT YOU & I HAVE ALL THE LOVE WE NEED SO WE CAN LOVE WITH IMPOSSIBLE LOVE.

WE HAVE IT ... IT IS IN US ...

AND IT'S THAT NATURE WE HAVE THAT BELONGS TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.

WE HAVE THE RESERVOIR

1 John 4:7 Berean Study Bible

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7 Paraphrased

Everyone who is born of God and knows God, loves with God's love.

IMAGINE A SOCIETY WHERE ALL ITS CITIZENS LOVED WITH AGAPE LOVE ...

WELL THERE IS ONE ...

IT'S CALLED 'THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD'.

TO LOVE WITH IMPOSSIBLE LOVE

1 John 3:14 KJV

*We know that we have passed from death unto life, **because we love the brethren**. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

'But,' you say, 'hang on, you expect me to believe that every born again believer cannot and never will do anything wrong?'

THAT'S TRUE!

YOUR NEW NATURE CANNOT SIN ... (1 John 3:6 & v9)

IT IS FASHIONED AFTER GOD'S NATURE ...

IT LOVES WITH GOD'S LOVE ...

AND **IT BELONGS TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.**

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD IS NOT FOR YOUR FLESH

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD IS **FOR THE NEW TRUE YOU**

Your flesh still sins ... but your flesh is not you!

Your outward man may physically bring you into fellowship ...

BUT IT'S OUR INNER-MAN THAT CONNECTS WITH OTHERS

(OTHERWISE WE JUST HAVE A SOCIAL GROUP)

COAT CHECK SLIDE

It's like when a person checks in their coat at the door of a fancy hotel and it's hung up in the coat room.

Imagine us checking in our 'flesh-coat' at the door so we can go in spiritually and connect with the family.

SO IT IS HERE.

WHEN PAUL SPEAKS TO US HE IS SPEAKING TO THE REAL US ...

THE SPIRITUAL PERSON CREATED AS CHRIST JESUS ...

THAT SPIRITUAL PERSON HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD ...

THAT 'SAINT-PERSON' WITH THE VERY NATURE OF GOD

HIMSELF.

THAT SAINT-PERSON IS THE NEW TRUE YOU ...

AND THAT PERSON BELONGS TO THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD.

POSITIONAL TRUTH BECOMES PRACTICAL

WHEN IT IS SHARED ...

AND THIS MANIFESTS THE SPIRITUAL

**AGAPE LOVE IS ACTIVATED AMONG US WHEN WE GIVE
OF OURSELVES
NOT FOR OURSELVES**

**AGAPE FOREVER FLOWS FROM THE FATHER TO US & THROUGH
US**

LOVE NEVER FAILS ...

**YOU WILL NEVER RUN OUT ONCE YOU HAVE TAPPED INTO THE
SOURCE**

➤ **THIS MEANS WE CAN LOVE WITH IMPOSSIBLE LOVE**

SLIDE TESTIMONY OF REUNION LAST FRIDAY

This week Chris attended a reunion with dear friends from his past. Though several are great musicians, there was no music played. They simply sat round and shared ... everyone reconnecting. One of them had been a mentor to the younger men, imparting incredible things to them in those days. As they spent this time together, the sense of phileo love and agape love was there among them.

After this wonderful time with his brothers, Chris drove home with renewed vigour for Jesus ... This solid sense of love he experienced there still lingers with him now. He came away feeling the strength of these men who have lived The Life of Love for 40 years.

**WE RUB OFF ON ONE ANOTHER
STRENGTH ENCOURAGING STRENGTH ...**

WE DON'T RUB ONE ANOTHER UP THE WRONG WAY

THIS LOVE LINGERS ...

Psalm 23:6

***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.***

GOODNESS & LOVINGKINDNESS (mercy) [wā·ḥe·sed](#) - closest thing to Agape Love in the Old Testament

THIS LOVE SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL MY DAYS ... IT LINGERS ...

AND IT MANIFESTS AS IT IS SHARED ...