Royal Family

Ephesians 3:15; 19-21

The RF member must get beyond Gnosis to fully comprehend God's love, the love of the LJC and to function within the Eternal Plan of God. (EPOG)

Vs. 15 "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

Vs. 19 "to know the Love of Christ." OWC

Vs. 20 "A power working within...."

Vs. 21 "A glory in the Church through generations"

We are members of a family, the family of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because Jesus Christ is "King of kings, Lord of lords, the Bright Morning Star," His family is a royal family. In fact, we are "seated together with Him in the heavenly places" right now (Eph. 2:6), so that our union with Christ gives us a wonderful position as intimate members of Christ's family, the church, the body of Christ.

Rev. 19:16, "He has a royal title written on His robe, `King of kings and Lord of lords.'" It is because a Christian has permanent position of solid authority as a member of the royal family of Jesus Christ that Paul can speak so confidently in these verses of the value and absolute necessity that believers be thoroughly rooted in the principles of the Christian life.

At His birth, our Lord was born Jewish royalty in His humanity. The virgin birth introduced the humanity of Christ into the world, at which point Jesus Christ became Jewish royalty. He is descended from lines of two of the sons of David by Bathsheba.

While Joseph was not the physical father of Jesus, he is the legal father in a human family and the line of royal descent from Solomon ends with Joseph, as shown in Matthew. The line of royal descent from Nathan, given in Luke, comes down to Mary, our Lord's real mother.

Royal Family (Continued)

Jesus' royal title is "Son of David," and His royal family is the dynasty of David. As Jewish royalty, our Lord will fulfill the Davidic covenant at the time of His second coming. The royal family of God, therefore, is made up of every believer, regardless of background, race, classification, etc. All distinctions are erased at the point of salvation and reconciliation. This is a permanent family relationship that will last forever. Our position is eternal and secure since it is related to our regeneration. This means also all believers are in full time service for Christ as royal priests and royal ambassadors.

Our objectives as members of Christ's family are to glorify God. We do this by:

- 1. Advancing in spiritual maturity, according to the plan of God.
- 2. Receiving the blessings which have been laid up in escrow for us. (Eph. 1:3)
- 3. Passing of faith as evidence of our growth and progress in the Christian life.
- 4. Receiving the blessings which are waiting for us in heaven, in eternity.

All these are summed up in the phrase "to glorify God." All the other priorities in life are really not important.

These facts, too, influence where Paul places his emphasis in his prayers. 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, 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."

As an exercise, read Ephesians, Hebrews, Romans, and Colossians with the aim of extracting any comment which deals with your position as a member of the Lord's family. Ephesians emphasizes the position of the royal family. Hebrews emphasizes the priesthood of the royal family. Romans emphasize the objectives of the royal family. Colossians emphasizes the lifestyle of the royal family.

Royal Family (Continued)

The Plan of God for Members of His Royal Family

The first objective for a Christian is to learn the Word of God on a consistent basis until he begins to have a personal love for God. This develops spiritual self-worth and focus.

Next, the believer must continue to grow spiritually by learning and applying Bible truth, until he is spiritually self-sustaining, and has developed impersonal love for other people.

Then, a Christian must pass through testing: people testing, thought testing, system testing, and disaster testing.

Finally a Christian must reach spiritual maturity, where through testing of the evidence of his faith, he becomes a witness against Satan.

At maturity, we receive our blessings which were deposited in escrow in Christ in eternity past (Eph. 1:3-14). These blessings glorify God to the maximum. Then God may test us concerning these blessings as evidence against Satan. This is the objective of the royal family while on earth.