

02 – YOUR OVERALL POSITION

- ✓ In this series, we're looking at 56 things that changed in you, or became yours, when you came to Christ. (So far, we've looked at things that happened to the "Old Man", and what we became as the "New Man" – 2 Cor. 5:17. Today, we'll look at our overall position in the kingdom.)

16. You Changed Spiritual Families

- ✓ My dad used to listen to a song by Charlie Pride that went like this: "You know we're all His children, His next of kin". Because of that song, I grew up believing that *everyone* is a child of God. (No matter how they act or what they believe.) I was shocked when I found out that ...

There Are Two Spiritual Families in the Earth

1 John 3:10 – "By this you can see who are the **children of God**, and who are the **children of the devil**." (John 8:44)

- ✓ Because of Adam's sin, we *begin* our lives in the wrong family. It's up to us to switch families. (How do we do that?)

John 1:12 – "As many as **received Him** ... to them He gave the power to **become** the children of God."

- ✓ When you accepted Christ, you changed spiritual families.

17. You Changed Kingdoms

Col. 1:13 – "Who has **delivered us** out of the control and dominion of darkness and has **transferred us** into the kingdom of His dear Son."

Isa. 42:16 – "And I will bring the blind by a way they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known." (It's a brand new, unfamiliar kingdom. Things operate differently here. It's a pretty steep learning curve.) Not only did you become a *subject* in this new kingdom ...

18. You Became Royalty

- ✓ In the devil's kingdom, you were a peon – a fallen creature that he could torment and dominate. But in God's Kingdom, you're royalty.

1 Pet. 2:9 – "But you are a chosen generation, a **royal** priesthood ..."

- ✓ As a rule, I like hymns. Unfortunately, not all of them are Scriptural. We used to sing one that went like this: "Here I wander like a beggar, through the heat and the cold." Unfortunately, songs (like that one) produced a "beggar mentality" in the Body of Christ.
- ✓ We were royalty, but we acted like beggars. We'd crawl up to God timidly "with our hat in our hand", grovelling. Royalty doesn't act like that! Royals are confident (Heb. 4:16).

19. You Became an Heir of God / Joint Heir with Christ – (Ro. 8:17)

- ✓ If you're a **joint**-heir with Christ – (Zodhiates says "*equal* heirs") – it seems logical that you'd want to find out what *He* inherited. (Since you get the same thing! – Heb. 1:2).

20. You Were Placed Into the Body of Christ – (1 Cor. 12:13)

1 Cor. 12:27 – "Now you are the Body of Christ, and **each of you is a unique and vital part**."

- ✓ You're a necessary part of the Body. We need you! God needs you! A lost world needs you!

21. You Were Seated in Heavenly Places – (Eph. 2:6)

- ✓ How are you seated there? You're seated there "in Christ". He's at the Right Hand of the Father, and you're "in Him". (In the mind of God, you're already there!)

22. You Were Blessed with Every Spiritual Blessing – (Eph. 1:3-4)

23. You Became Part of the New Covenant

- ✓ All the benefits of the New Covenant became yours. Again, you'll want to read it and find out what belongs to you. (It's like reading your rich uncle's *will* to find out what he left to you – Heb. 9.)

24. You Received Great and Precious Promises

2 Pet. 1:4 – “He gave us very great and **precious promises, that through them, you might partake ...**”

- ✓ We partake of what's ours *through the promises*. (They tell us what belongs to us.)

It's Possible to Not Know What's Yours

- ✓ The story is told of a woman who, in the days before air travel, wanted to come to the United States. She saved her money until, finally, she had enough to purchase a ticket on an ocean liner. Since she only had enough money for the ticket (and not for food onboard the ship), she brought enough cheese and crackers to last the entire journey.
- ✓ Every day at mealtime, she'd pass the dining room and gaze at all the wonderful food the chef had prepared. Then she'd go up on the deck and eat her cheese and crackers.
- ✓ Finally, on the last day of the trip, as she sat down to eat her cheese and crackers, the captain noticed her. He asked why she wasn't in the dining room with the other passengers. Sheepishly she explained that she'd only had enough money for the ticket, with nothing left over for food. (I'm sure you can see this coming.) She was horrified to discover that the meals were included in the cost of the ticket.
- ✓ I'm convinced that there are untold numbers of “cheese and cracker” Christians who will arrive in Heaven to learn that many of the things that they *did without* all their lives were included in the salvation that Christ provided for them.

25. You Received the Measure of Faith – (Ro. 12:3)

- ✓ Notice that didn't say “a” measure of faith. (Like God chose how much faith we'd each get, and then passed out different measures, according to His sovereign will.) No, this said He gave us “*the*” (standard) measure of faith. We all start at the same place. From there you can grow and develop your measure, or you can neglect it and let it stagnate. It's your choice.

26. You Gained Access to the Mind of Christ – (1 Cor. 2:16)

27. You Were Sanctified – (1 Cor. 6:11)

- ✓ Set apart for God to use. Again, you're an important part of the family.