

DOCTRINE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD

1. DEFINITION:

- a. The *Royal Family of God* is defined as all believers in the **dispensation** of the Church Age. This unique system of royalty is describe as “*a kingdom of priests*” in Rev. 1:6. This collection of saints is described in 1 Pet. 2:9 as follows: “*an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession.*”
 - (1) βασιλείος - basileios – (Greek adjective) meaning: royal (1 Pet. 2:9)
 - (2) πατριά – patria – (Greek noun) meaning: family (Eph. 3:15)
- b. This royalty is based on our relationship to Jesus Christ by faith and our position in Him. (Rom. 6:5, 11)
- c. While regeneration occurs in every **dispensation**, it is only the regenerate of the Church Age who comprise this nobility.

NOTE: **Dispensations** are God’s divine perspective and administration of the events and flow of history, which include progressive revelation and man’s responsibility, to the accomplishment of His purpose.

2. BASIS OF ROYALTY IN THE CHURCH AGE:

- a. The basis for our royalty is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:5; Rom. 6:3, 4; with 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:15-17)
- b. While regeneration by the Holy Spirit is always the result of faith in the Lord, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is unique to the dispensation of the church. (John 14:16, 17; Col. 1:25, 26)

3. PRECEDENT FOR ROALTY:

- a. The pattern and precedent for royalty is provided by the Old Testament king of Salem, *Melchizedek*. (Gen. 14:18; Heb. 7:1-5)
- b. The name *Melchizedek* comes from the Hebrew, meaning “king of righteousness:”
 - (1) מֶלֶךְ - melek (Hebrew noun) meaning: king
 - (2) צְדָקָה - tzedeq (Hb. n.) meaning: righteousness
- c. While the origin of Melchizedek’s royalty is unknown, the royalty of Jesus Christ comes from the line of King David. (Matt. 1:1, 20; 2:2; Luke 1:32, 33; 3:31)
- d. *Melchizedek* is referred to prophetically as a type of Christ as a priest-king. (Psa. 110:4)
- e. The fulfillment of this prophecy is seen in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Psa. 110:4 with Heb. 5:5, 6, 10; 6:19, 20; 7:17, 21-24)
- f. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are part of this priesthood, “*the order* (or battalion) *of Melchizedek.*” (Col. 1:13; Heb. 7:26; 8:1; 1 Pet. 2:9)

4. THE BELIEVER’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE KING:

- a. Jesus Christ was alone on the cross, but the apostle Paul says that we died with Him, positionally. (Rom. 6:3-5, 8; 2 Tim. 2:11)

- b. Therefore, God the Father provided for Him in His glorification a **“body,”** the church on earth (Eph. 1:23; Col. 1:18, 24), to become the **“bride”** in heaven (Rev.19:7; 21:9; 22:17). This body of believers is the **“royal family of God.”**
- c. As members of the body of Christ, every believer in the Church Age is eternally and personally related to the **“KING OF KINGS.”** (1 Cor. 12:27; Gal. 3:26-29; Rev. 19:16)
- d. When the body of Christ is completed, the Church Age terminates with the rapture; and the body of Christ, the **royal family**, becomes the bride of Christ. (1 Thess. 4:16-18)

5. THE SIGN OF ROYALTY:

- a. The unique and universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the sign of royalty for the **royal family.** (Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20)
- b. The purpose of this indwelling by the Holy Spirit is to glorify God through Jesus Christ. (John 7:37-39; Rom. 8:10, 11; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 2 Thess. 1:11, 12; John 17:9, 10; 1 Pet. 4:11)

6. THE SECURITY OF ROYALTY:

- a. The sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit guarantees the eternal security of the believer in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:13, 14; 4:30)
- b. Our position in Christ, seated at the right hand of God, (positional sanctification), secures our destiny forever. (Col. 3:1-4; Eph. 1:3, 4, 14)

7. THE FUNCTION OF ROYALTY:

- a. The believer in Jesus Christ fulfills the objectives of the Christian way of life by obedience to a code of conduct, a **“royal family honor code,”** which reflects the authority, the righteousness, the grace, and the glory of God. (Isa. 55:8, 9; 2 Cor. 5:9; Eph. 5:10; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:1)
- b. This **“royal family honor code”** is the modus vivendi of the new priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9), and it is summarized by the **“royal law,”** (James 2:8; cf. Matt. 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:26-28; John 13:34, 35)
- c. As the believer advances to spiritual maturity and beyond, he or she receives the blessings of royalty. (Prov. 8:32, 34; 10:6, 22; 28:20; Eph. 1:3)

8. THE FUTURE OF ROYALTY:

- a. The **royal family**, then the **“bride of Christ,”** will return with Him at the end of the **“great tribulation”** (Matt. 25:21, 29-31) to observe His victory over the armies of the beast in the battle of Armageddon. (Rev. 16:16; 17:11-14; 19:11-21)
- b. The **“royal family”** will live and reign with Jesus Christ throughout the millennium and live forever in the New Jerusalem, in the New Heavens and the New Earth. (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 21:1, 2, 9, 10)

9. THE ESCUTCHEON OF THE ROYAL FAMILY:

- a. *“the unity of the Spirit”* is described in Eph. 4:3-6.
- b. This unity *“in the bond of peace”* can be visualized as a shield or “coat of arms” on which armorial bearing, as protection of the body, is displayed.
- c. There are seven features that comprise this unity:
 - (1) **One body** – the church, the royal family (1 Cor. 12:12ff., Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:24)
 - (2) **One Spirit** – indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph 2:18; 5:18)
 - (3) **One hope of your calling** – (Rom. 1:6; Eph. 1:18; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:13)
 - (4) **One Lord** – the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 8:6b)
 - (5) **One faith** – the totality of the written word of God (Eph. 4:13; Jude 3)
 - (6) **One baptism** – baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)
 - (7) **One God and Father of all** – God the Father (1 Cor. 8:4b, 6a)