

# DO YOU HAVE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP?

by  
Scott Parker

If you have obeyed the gospel, then you are a citizen in the kingdom of God; i.e. you are a member of the blood bought church of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As a citizen of the kingdom, certain requirements are incumbent upon you. In what has come to be called “**The Sermon on the Mount**,” Jesus discussed many of these requirements. Let’s note what proper kingdom citizenship is all about, per that great sermon recorded in **Matthew 5:1-7:27**.

1. A kingdom citizen is poor in spirit (**Matthew 5:3**).
2. A kingdom citizen mourns over sin (**Matthew 5:4**).
3. A kingdom citizen is one who submits to God (**Matthew 5:5**).
4. A kingdom citizen is one who has an insatiable desire for God’s Word (**Matthew 5:6**).
5. A kingdom citizen is one who is merciful (**Matthew 5:7**).
6. A kingdom citizen is one who places a premium on purity (**Matthew 5:8**).
7. A kingdom citizen must be a peacemaker (**Matthew 5:9**).
8. A kingdom citizen rejoices when the trials of life come (**Matthew 5:10-12**).
9. A kingdom citizen is one who affects others (**Matthew 5:13**).
10. A kingdom citizen is one who glorifies God by their actions (**Matthew 5:14-16**).
11. A kingdom citizen is one who is not a faker; i.e. a hypocrite (**Matthew 5:20**).
12. A kingdom citizen is one who controls his/her temper (**Matthew 5:21-22**).
13. A kingdom citizen is one who does not let problems fester (**Matthew 5:23-26**).
14. A kingdom citizen must not be overtaken by sexual temptation (**Matthew 5:27-28**).
15. A kingdom citizen is serious about avoiding going to hell (**Matthew 5:29-30**).
16. A kingdom citizen honors God’s marriage law (**Matthew 5:31-32**).
17. A kingdom citizen is one who keeps his/her word (**Matthew 5:33-37**).
18. A kingdom citizen is one who goes the extra mile (**Matthew 5:38-41**).
19. A kingdom citizen is one who cares about “outsiders” (**Matthew 5:43-48**).
20. A kingdom citizen is one who has proper motives (**Matthew 6:1-8**).
21. A kingdom citizen is one who is devoted to prayer (**Matthew 6:9-13**).
22. A kingdom citizen is one who forgives when asked to forgive (**Matthew 6:14-15**).

23. A kingdom citizen is one who understands what true riches are (**Matthew 6:19-24**).
24. A kingdom citizen trusts implicitly in God for day to day provisions (**Matthew 6:25-34**).
25. A kingdom citizen is one who does not engage in unrighteous judgment (**Matthew 7:1-5**).
26. A kingdom citizen knows how to spend his/her time (**Matthew 7:6**).
27. A kingdom citizen is one who understands the basic goodness of God (**Matthew 7:7-11**).
28. A kingdom citizen knows how to treat people (**Matthew 7:12**).
29. A kingdom citizen understands that the reward takes effort (**Matthew 7:13-14**).
30. A kingdom citizen is one who recognizes and avoids false teachers (**Matthew 7:15-20**).
31. A kingdom citizen is one who hears and obeys Jesus (**Matthew 7:24**).

Man, what a list. What a wonderful sermon our Lord spoke forth!

The question is this: are you giving it your “level best” to live up to the mandates set forth therein?

Do you have **proof** of citizenship, or do you just claim to be a citizen; i.e. a member of the church?

Think carefully about it.