

“Procured Privilege”

1. Purchased Privilege
 - a. Gift from God (2 Cor. 9:15)
 - b. Unattainable by force (Matt. 11:12)
2. Providential Privilege

Social status by God’s design (Acts 17:26-27)
3. Predestined Privilege (Ro. 8:29)
4. Profound Privilege (Col. 2:3 w/ 3:3)
5. Purposed Privilege (Mat. 28:19)
 - a. Cannot separate evangelism from discipleship (Mat. 7:18-23; 16:24-26; Lu. 14:25-33).
 - b. Jesus would not pass any evangelism courses today. When He did get a huge crowd, He’d start teaching with hard sayings such as ... eat My flesh and drink My blood...
 - c. We are commissioned to preach the Word, disciple all nations, and wage war (1 Tim. 1:18).
 - d. Winning converts proves nothing if they are not transformed by the power of the Gospel (Mat. 23:13-15)
 - e. Jn. 9:39-41 – you show me a convert who does not repent of sin and I’ll show you a convert who has not been regenerated. Many claim to be believers; yet have not, nor will repent of blatant sins. See 1 Cor. 5:11-13; 6:9-11, 13, 18; Eph. 5:5; Jn. 8:11; Rev. 21:8).
 - f. We are called to be holy and faithful to our betrothed.
6. Persecuted Privilege (Mat. 5:9-12; Lu. 6:26; Jn. 15:19; Ja. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:15-17 cf. Jn. 17:14; Isa. 30:10; Jer. 5:31)
7. Peculiar Privilege
 - a. Paradoxical victory (2 Cor. 4:7-12)
 - b. “In but not of the world” (Jn. 17:16 cf. 1 Pet. 1:1) “dispersed sojourners.” Though privileged, we are now foreigners to the world (Jn. 15:19).
 - c. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, He gives a manifesto for Kingdom citizens. Scripture paradoxically offers motifs of the last being first, the humble being exalted, the martyred winning victory, etc.
8. Practical Privilege
 - a. Although we did not earn or merit our privilege in Christ, there is a practical working out of our salvation (Phil. 2:12-13).
 - b. In fact, if one is able to contribute yet refuses, he thus should not receive a handout (2 Thes. 3:10).
 - c. And those who do fervently labor are not to be neglected (1 Cor. 9:7-15).
 - d. Ours is not a privilege without responsibility (e.g. Mat. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5; Eph. 4:8-12 cf. 1 Cor. 12:28).
 - e. Entitled privilege is repugnant. Privilege without discipline is repulsive. But heaven’s grace come down to transform an inept, rebellious, anxious, selfish soul into a humble, courageous, honorable, servant is divine and glorious!

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PC: According to the world, “privilege” is a bad thing for which we need to repent. However, Scripture celebrates God’s “peculiar treasure,” His chosen or elect whom He has seated in the “heavenly places.” They are positioned in the most privileged place in the universe – in Christ! Ours is not an entitled privilege but one which has been procured by the amazing grace and sacrifice of God Himself. And with our great privilege comes great responsibility. We are to courageously advance the Gospel and such means waging warfare on the world. Christmas is the celebration of the Almighty Warrior King coming to reclaim the world and conquer, sin, evil, hell, and death while liberating those predestined to be conformed to His image! Oh, how marvelous! Oh, how glorious! “Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!”