

What Is Expected of You as a Prince or Princess of the King

My daughter has restarted watching a show called *Sofia the First*. It tells of the adventures of a village girl after her mother marries the king.

I love the line from the theme song, “I am finding out what being royal is all about.” It captures the feeling that every Christian experiences when they become a child of the King.

It reminds me of my time from second to fifth grade when my family moved from the United States to Sri Lanka. It was a strange experience to be from one place but living in another. They call these people “third culture kids” (TCKs). One of the best explanations of this kind of life came as a missionary described it in their newsletter (names left off for security purposes):

A TCK is a child who grows up in a third and unique culture. They are heavily influenced by the culture of their parents (passport countries), and they spend a large portion of their lives being influenced by a second culture (host countries). They do not wholly fit into either. Instead, they mix these cultural norms together into a unique and personal blend to create their own third, distinctly unique culture. So, they live in these two worlds and form ideas of who they are and what is normal and it becomes part of their perspective, their culture. Their culture is a blended one. They are Third Culture Kids.

This is the challenge all of us face as we live as with passports for another world, or as the apostle Paul says, “Our citizenship is in heaven.” (Phil 3:20a). But how do we live in

this in between time?

Here are five things I think we do differently living as prince and princesses in this world:

1. We take advantage of access to the King. Although we don't live in heaven now, we still can do what the author of Hebrews describes, "Let us come with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16) From my time of living overseas, I know sometimes you just pick up the phone and call home. We experienced then the challenge of bad phone connections, but our Father the King is just a prayer away.

2. We live as representatives of the King wherever we go and with whatever we say. I remember as a kid the father of a neighbor boy trying to talk to me about United States politics. I don't remember what I said, but I was in that moment a representative of the United States to him. We must remember that every word, text or social media post is as a representative of the King of the universe. As Proverbs says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21a).

3. Capitalize on our unique position to bring people to the palace. There is an episode in *Sofia the First* where Sofia brings some of her friends from the village to the castle for a sleepover. It is filled with drama because the village girls are not used to the palace, and Sofia's new sister wants them to behave like princesses. We all, as people originally from the village, are in a unique position to help introduce people around us to a life they too can enjoy. We just need to remember where we came from and live out grace everywhere we go.

4. Understand we will live with tension and homesickness. One of the things I experience as a TCK is that it is often hard to feel at home. When I was living in Sri Lanka, there are

things I would miss deeply back in the United States. And just last week I was talking about craving a fruit from Sri Lanka that I can't get here in the USA. The same is true for us as Christians. There are moments when we will feel out of place. As the founding pastor of my home church said shortly before his death, "I am homesick for a place I have never been."

5. We party like a princess. I had to throw this one in as a place to end. A few weeks ago, I took my daughter to her first concert: Jamie Grace. The new song was: Party Like a Princess. The point of the song was that if our identity is as a child of the King, we can celebrate even if we don't have certain external things (the song's example is a boyfriend).

Don't forget to rejoice that "He paid it all" so you could be a prince or princess. {eoa}

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