

## Social Arrogance; the Spiritual Aristocrats; Glossary of the Privileged Class: Privileged, Privilege, Prerogative, Advantage

18. Extreme arrogance exists in today's world between the haves and the have-nots. Each cops an attitude toward the other. The haves project an elitist state of mind toward the less privileged while the have-nots cast an envious attitude toward the well-to-do.
19. The reality of the matter is that there is neither bourgeoisie nor proletariat in the family of God. Every believer is a member of his heavenly family which possesses privileges, opportunities, assets, and responsibilities which stagger the imagination.
20. A believer that continues to think of himself as a common person deprives himself of the experience of exploiting the advantages imputed to him at salvation by the grace of God.
21. This is a tragic case of missed opportunity since all who believe in Christ are royal aristocrats, elite nobility, and are among the privileged class.
22. It must be recognized that there are those among us who choose to reject Christ and remain among the lower class: riffraff, hoi polloi, and canaille.
23. Consequently it becomes necessary to develop a glossary of terms that defines those who are among the privileged and nonprivileged classes.
24. The definitions of these English words are intended as a teaching aid that distinguishes the differences between those who have believed in Christ and those who have not.

### Glossary of the Privileged Class:

1. The definitions that follow are culled from several dictionaries. In order to give attribution for each the following abbreviations will be employed:
  1. **AD/EL:** *American Dictionary of the English Language.*
  2. **AHD/EL:** *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.*
  3. **MWCD-11:** *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed.
  4. **NOAD:** *The New Oxford American Dictionary.*
  5. **OED:** *Oxford English Dictionary.*
  6. **WNCD-2:** *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, 2d ed.
  7. **WNNCD:** *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary.*
  8. **WNTCD-2:** *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary*, 2d ed.
2. The words we are about to define are presented in order to characterize through vocabulary the persona and assets of those who by birth inherit certain advantages.
3. In this context we are interested in defining these things as they relate to the believer's spiritual birth into the royal family of God.
4. As we move through these words and their definitions we will illustrate their application to spiritual aristocracy by quoting pertinent verses of Scripture.
  1. **Privileged:** Not subject to the usual rules or penalties because of some special circumstance [MWCD-11]. Having special rights (e.g., prayer), advantages (e.g., biblical problem-solving devices) or immunities (e.g., the second death, the lake of fire) [NOAD].

**Romans 8:1** - Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. **Privilege**: A right, immunity, benefit, or advantage granted to some person, group of persons, or class, not enjoyed by others [WNTCD-2].

**John 1:12 -** As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

**v. 13 -** who were born not of blood [ natural descent ], nor of the will of the flesh [ human good ], nor of the will of man [ human planning ], but of God.

NOTE: The word “right” is the accusative singular direct object of the noun **ἐξουσία, exousia**: freedom of choice, right to act, ability to do something.

3. **Prerogative**: The right to exercise power or privilege to the exclusion of others [WNCD-2]. The discretionary power inhering in *royalty* [WNNCD].

**Hebrews 4:16 -**Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

4. **Advantage**: Any condition, circumstance, opportunity, or means particularly favorable to success, or to any desired end. That which is gained from superiority of state or position [WNCD-2].