

“Living Like a Citizen of Heaven”
Philippians 3:17-21 (Oct. 2, 2011)

1. Are you following the pattern of citizenship?

“Brethren, join in following my example and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.” (3:17)

“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.” (1 Cor. 11:1)

2. Are you a friend of the cross of Christ?

- An Enemy of the cross? (19)
 - a. Their end is destruction.
 - b. Their god is selfish pleasure.
 - c. Their glory is their shame.
 - d. Their mind is on earthly things.

- A Friend of the cross of Christ?
 - a. A citizen of heaven! (20a)
 - b. Waiting for a Savior! (20b)
 - c. Waiting for transformation! (21a)
 - d. Submitting to His position and His power! (21b)

Application:

1. Are you a citizen of heaven? What do you need to do to make sure? Does your life follow the pattern of other citizens of heaven?
2. This week, be strong against whatever is an enemy of heaven. Pray for clarity of vision and strength to stand firm in the Lord.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
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1. As you imagine what it will be like in heaven...share one idea of what you will experience.
2. Have you ever been in a foreign culture? What was the most unusual thing you observed? As citizens of heaven, what kind of "culture" or way of living should we be practicing? (Phil. 3:17)(Also I Tim. 4:12; I Peter 5:3) Should people notice that we are from a different place? What should they observe? Who should we be imitating? (I Cor. 11:1)
3. Paul presents two possible responses to the cross of Christ. What are they? (Phil. 3:19) Why do some people reject the cross? (I Cor. 1:17-18) Review what the cross stands for...
 - The reality of sin and its need for punishment. (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)
 - The perfect sacrifice or substitute. (2 Cor. 5:21; I John 2:1-2)
 - The finished work of Christ on the cross. (Jn. 19:30)
 - The reconciliation of the sinner and God. (Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20)
 - The cleansing of sin because of the blood of Christ shed on the cross. (I John 1:7; Eph. 1:7)
4. If someone is an enemy of the cross or rejects it as necessary, what is the result? (Phil. 3:19a; Matt. 7:13; 2 Thess. 1:9) Who or what have they decided to serve or worship? (19) (Also Rom. 16:18) Give some examples of what that might look like.
5. According to Paul, they "glory" in the things that they should be ashamed of. Compare this thought with Paul's description in Rom. 1:32. What examples have you seen where our culture glorifies sin.
6. An enemy of the cross has their mind on what matters to the earth culture. (19b) What should the Christ follower be focused upon? (Col. 3:1-2)
7. A friend of the cross is called a citizen of heaven. (20) What other reminders do we have of this truth?
 - John 17:16 –
 - Heb. 11:16 –
 - John 18:36 –
 - I Peter 1:4 –
8. Describe the attitude of a citizen of heaven as he waits for the day of reunion with the Lord. (20)
 - John 14:2 –
 - 2 Tim. 4:8 –
 - I Cor. 1:7 –
 - Rom. 8:25 –
 - Heb. 9:28 –
 - Titus 2:13 –
9. What will our new body be like? (21)
 - I Cor. 15:49-52 –
 - John 20:19 –
 - Ps. 17:15 –
 - Matt. 25:21 –
 - Ps. 16:11 –
 - I Cor. 13:12 –
 - Lk. 16:25 –
 - I Cor. 13:13 –
10. What is the overarching principle of life, if you are a citizen of heaven? (21)(Isa. 9:6-7; Eph. 1:21)