



Part 1: The Power of Citizenship

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My heavenly citizenship is not based on:

My knowledge (I Corinthians 3:19)

My victories and failures (Isaiah 64:6)

My birthplace (Romans 5:12-19)

My shifting moral values (Titus 3:5)

My adherence to religious codes and rules (Romans 3:20)

My heavenly citizenship is based on:

My relationship with The King and his gracious invitation to be his child

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation– if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.

This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. – Colossians 1:21-23

Philippians 3:12-21

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

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As a citizen of heaven:

I will choose to put the past behind me and press on towards the goal of Jesus (verses 13-14)

I will live this life as an ambassador of Jesus (verse 17)

I have chosen my side and will no longer live as an enemy of the cross (verses 18-19)

I will act with urgency based on the fact that my King is coming (verses 20-21)

I will accept that I am not home yet

Ephesians 2:19-20

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

My Pledge

As a citizen of heaven, I pledge allegiance to my Savior, Jesus Christ. I have waived my personal rights and daily choose the life of a living sacrifice. I will not hold back. I have chosen my side. My goal line is heaven and my purpose is clear: to live my life as an ambassador and to take as many people with me as I can.

Next Steps

If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, you are a citizen of heaven. You have a chance make your decision public through water baptism next weekend, but you must attend one of the classes this weekend. **Saturday from 7:15-8:15 PM or Sunday from 12:15-1:15 PM.** *Kids 12 and younger meet with their parents in Room 210; teens and adults meet in Room 211.*

Small Group Questions



- 1) What is your citizenship? What is your family ancestry? What does your citizenship mean to you?
- 2) What are some of the popular religious codes that people adhere to in order to ensure their access to heaven?
- 3) Many people believe that you can get into heaven by simply being a good person. How do you feel about that stance? Without preaching, what would you say to that person if you had the opportunity?
- 4) What does a citizen of heaven or ambassador of Jesus live like in 2011? Beware of becoming legalistic, but be honest and forthright.
- 5) Does the urgency of God's return change the way you live your life?
- 6) What does your "heavenly citizenship" mean to you?
- 7) How can we pray for you tonight?