

Philippians: Week 11 Study Questions

[Philippians 3:17-21, 4:1](#)

We are either citizens of Heaven or enemies of the cross of Christ. If we are truly citizens of Heaven, we are to purposefully emulate and follow other believers and set our sights on our eternal citizenship as we labor together to become more like Jesus.

Application

1. In Philippians 3:18 it is their *conduct* that tells us who they are. What is your conduct telling others about who you are? Matt challenged parents to consider that what our children are *saying* is not what is most compelling but what they are *doing*. If you are a parent, in what ways do you resonate with Matt's challenge to parents to be honest about how our children are doing?
2. Paul describes an enemy of the cross of Christ as someone whose god is his appetite, who brags about shameful things, and who only thinks about his life here on earth. Which one of these do you most identify with, and how does this play out in your life? How are you living as a citizen of Heaven in light of this struggle?
3. There is intense activity and eager anticipation as we wait for the return of our Savior. The view that Jesus could come back at any time should drive our decisions and be the framework through which we live our lives. How is this concept difficult for you in your life? How often do you think about Jesus' return? Who do you know who seems to live this out, and how does it affect the people around them?
4. When Paul writes, "He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own" (3:21a), do you read this as a rebuke or an encouragement? In what ways do you lean towards either vanity, in which you need the reminder that your human body is a "body of humiliation," or towards frailty, in which you need the reminder that Jesus will one day transform your body into a glorious one like His own?
5. Matt reminds us that we need to be both following someone and leaving space in our lives for someone to follow us. Who are you following? Who is following you? Where can you create space in your life to either follow someone else or let others follow you? Are you so busy that there is no space in your life for people to learn from you and be blessed by you?

Key Points

- We are wired to receive things that we have not been taught directly—the people we choose to emulate correlates directly with what we learn and how we change.
- The group of people that Paul is speaking to is trying to add religious activity to their faith. Even if you say that your salvation hinges 99% on God's work and 1% on yourself, then you are an enemy of the cross, only trusting in yourself.
- Just as the Philippians are under Roman rule, the Church is under Heaven's rule.
- Leaning in to the anticipation of the second coming means to faithfully and eagerly wait for Christ's return by living a holy lifestyle, loving people well, being generous with our time and resources, and sharing our life with others.

Scripture References

[1 Corinthians 11:1](#)

[Luke 12:35-46](#)