

Philippians: Week 4 Study Questions

Philippians 1:27-30

We are far from home—citizens of Heaven living in this world. As citizens of Heaven, God calls us to live bound together in one Spirit and with one purpose, making disciples and fighting for the gospel. Although we don't suffer in the same way as the Philippians suffered, we battle internal struggles within our church body that require us to stand together and contend for each other and for the good news.

Application

1. What does it look like for us to be citizens of Heaven? How should this impact how we interact with our culture? How do we live in a way that is not perfect but “worthy” of the gospel?
2. What separates you from the people around you who aren't citizens of Heaven? What about your life could confuse others about where your citizenship is? How does your life look like you may belong to the world?
3. Matt gave a list of four internal ways in which we struggle that can be a threat to the gospel. Which of these four are the biggest challenge for you and why?
 - a. Self-sufficiency: Believing that you are good as you are, that your sin isn't serious enough to need rescuing from, and that you don't need any help.
 - b. Rugged Individualism: Isolating yourself and not allowing others to speak into your life. You avoid community and tend to want to hide from vulnerability and exposure.
 - c. Legalism: A control issue in which you add to the Scriptures to “maintain purity” and decide yourself what God wants.
 - d. License: Reckless living because you feel entitled to live however you want; you feel trapped by God's authority and choose to be a citizen of your own kingdom.
4. What are a few ways you can choose to suffer and take risks to benefit others even though it will not benefit you in the short term? Why is it so critical to us that everything go so well for us in this world? What does that expose about where you place your hope?

Key Points

- We are citizens of Heaven, far from home, with the identity of Heaven inside of us.
- “Living in a manner worthy of the gospel” refers to worthy as weighty, or living like there is substance to this life—not living like we are perfect but in a way that reveals we represent the kingdom of heaven.
- We are called to be bound to one another with one Spirit and one purpose, standing and fighting together for our faith.
- You have to choose whom you fear: Am I going to be afraid of people or of God? (See [Matthew 10:28](#))
- One sign to others that you have put your faith and trust in God is when someone is trying to intimidate you and you are not affected by it. It is a sign to others that you aren't trusting in yourself, but that you are trusting in Someone else to protect and provide for you.
- Although we do not suffer in the same way as the Philippians, we still have to choose to suffer:
 - We choose to sacrifice our time and our money
 - We choose to serve other people
 - We choose to take risks that don't benefit us in the short term, that benefit other people
 - We choose to impoverish ourselves of time and energy and resources to be a blessing for other people for their long term benefit
 - We choose to speak about what God is doing in our souls even though that may mean we experience alienation
- In the best of times there is still suffering, and in the worst times of suffering there is still blessing. Because both are always taking place, we can take comfort that our hope comes from somewhere else, our citizenship of Heaven.