

JOY, IN KINGDOM CITIZENSHIP

PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1 // JORDAN COROS
JANUARY 8, 2023



As a citizen of heaven, I imitate the servants of Christ (3:17, 1 Cor 11:1), forsake the enemies of Christ (3:18-19, John 17:16), believe the promises of Christ (3:20-21, 1 John 3:3), and stand firm in the work of Christ (4:1)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. ***Citizenship usually ties us to a country with its distinctive traits and culture. These peculiarities make us familiar to our nation and foreign everywhere else.*** What are some local customs or characteristics you don't tend to see outside of the region you call home?
2. ***Whom you watch and what you focus on will have an impact on whom you become. This passage encourages us to imitate the servants of Christ so that we become more like Jesus.*** Outside of those in your small group, who do you hold up as a personal example to follow? In what specific area have you found them to be worthy of imitation? (Perhaps integrity at work, patience in parenting, contentment with financial position, peace through uncertainty, etc.)

*Every Christian is to become a little Christ.
The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is
simply nothing else. - C.S. Lewis, Mere
Christianity*

3. Could other Christians "keep eyes on you" to learn an example from your walk with Christ? What patterns of faithful living do you want people to imitate if they did?

4. **Verses 18 and 19 contain a warning and description of the enemies of the cross of Christ.** Why do you think Paul talks about them with tears (compassion) rather than contempt or a callous heart? How do we ensure there is a difference between them and us?

5. **Verses 20 and 21 present the dual promise that Jesus will return and that our lowly bodies will be transformed by power from God. We believe in these promises, and faith sets us apart from the world. 1 John 3:3 explains that such hope purifies us.** Do you base your daily life's decisions and actions on God's promises? Which promises would give you hope in the week ahead and cause you to live differently from your neighbours?

*We are here so that the outside world
would look at us and see something
different and ask, "You guys aren't from
around here, are you?" No, we aren't. Our
citizenship is in heaven, and we're waiting
for our Saviour to come from there to
here and make all things new.
- Tony Merida, Love Your Church*

6. What will it mean for you to stand firm in Christ's work? If you have stopped obeying Christ in some area of your life, what does renewed faithfulness look like now? Whom can you ask to help you stand as a kingdom citizen?