



WEEK 3 - CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

OVERVIEW

As Paul considers his own imprisonment and impending death, he is fully dedicated to “magnifying” Christ in all things. Like a portal, he wants others to see *Jesus* when they look at him. As Paul passes the baton to the next generation of the Philippian church, he reminds them that they are “citizens of heaven,” and that the soil beneath their feet is the kingdom of God. When people see *them*, they should be seeing Christ. His encouragement is simple: You are citizens of heaven. Live like it!

As we think about what God might have in store for Grace Church in the future, let us join Paul in imagining what would happen if we took our role seriously. Imagine if, in our building and in our relationships with our “ones,” our congregation was a portal to the very person of Christ himself. Imagine if our community was so full of love that our friends and neighbors couldn’t help but ask, “Who are these people?”

For Reference: Sermons from March 9 and 16, 2025 will be the source of much of this message’s direction.

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.

Philippians 1:27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Barry mentioned the portal art exhibit in cities around the world. How could your life be a portal to Jesus Christ?
2. Read [Philippians 1:20-26](#).
 - a. Why does Paul referring to living versus dying?
 - b. How does Paul’s life magnify Christ (like a lens, or portal)?
3. Read [Philippians 1:27-30](#).
 - a. What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven?
 - b. In what ways can we *fight together for the faith*?
 - c. Do you ever feel like you don’t belong, like you don’t quite fit into society because your beliefs are different? How could you realistically enter into the brokenness of the world to shine the light of Jesus?
4. Barry asked us to consider, “What would happen if we truly believed that Grace Church is a colony of Christ’s love in the middle of a broken world? A portal to the very heart of God?”
5. What is one step you could take toward your “one”?