

Philippians 3:17-21 Dual Citizenship

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:* ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

As of 8:06 am yesterday there were 327 billion 748 thousand 796 people living in the United States.

A) That number changes every 14 seconds however because – there **is a one birth** in this country every 8 seconds – 1 death every 12 seconds

B) And **one international migrant every 29 seconds** to form a net gain of one person every 14 seconds.

C) Now of the over 327 billion people in this country Under 2% have– Dual Citizenship

1) They are a Citizen of the US and they are a Citizen of another country.

D) So if by Chance you have a Dual Citizenship – you are very rare as an American Citizen.

Now although Dual citizenship is rare Physically speaking – it is not RARE at all Spiritually speaking.

A) Paul here in V.20 tells us very plainly that Citizenship is in Heaven.

B) NOW We have noted already in this study in the Book of Philippians how Paul had pointed out that **the believers in Philippi had a Dual residency**

C) Chapter 1:1 They were **in Christ** but living **in Philippi**

We note here – they also had Dual Citizenship – Rome – but also Heaven

A) Same is true for you – Born again – A follower of Jesus – Dual Residency – IN Christ – In Vista OSCD

B) You have a Dual Residency – but you also have a Dual citizenship

1) Citizens of here – but also Citizens of Heaven!

C) We are living here in this world – this place – here in the USA – **but in reality this world is not our real Home**

1) The Bible refers to us as Pilgrims and Sojourners

Warren Wiersbe used to say: “A vagabond is a person who has no home, a sojourner is away from home and pilgrim is headed home.”

Home is where Jesus is – Right now – that is heaven.

A) Today I want to point out 3 Characteristics of People who’s citizenship is in heaven.

#1 Citizens of Heaven walk with Partners V17

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

B) Join in following my example: Follow the pattern in other words.

C) **Certain Patterns in the United States** – Stand with hand of our hearts at National anthem – Pledge of allegiance

1) We carry a Passport when for The USA – when we travel abroad

D) Americans have certain characteristics – mannerisms talk a certain way.

1) Easy for others **to spot** travel outside of the US

In the same way: IT is easy spot foreigners here:

A) Go to the CB outlet mall – here a dozen different languages

B) See ladies walking hand in hand – not gay – common in foreign countries

B) When People from a foreign country come to CA one of the first places they want to go is Disneyland or Hollywood

1) When a US citizen comes home from being abroad – one of the first places they want to go **is In and out**

C) You start craving it on the airplane – Pastors from other states

We have patterns:

A) Paul has already told us what our pattern is supposed to be – 1:27 **a walk worthy of the gospel – weighs as much**

B) But we don't just need patterns we also need Partners

1) The Christian life was never meant to be ran alone – No lone ranger Christians

C) We are in this together!

“Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace WITH THOSE who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” 2 Timothy 2:22

D) We are to run from Sin – but we run from sin by running toward something else –

1) Pursue righteousness

E) If we run from sin and not toward righteousness we will run right back to it.

Run from sin by pursuing righteousness faith, love and peace – note this – WITH THOSE – WITH OTHERS

A) With those Who call on the Lord out of a pure heart –

B) We pursue those things with others who are doing the same.

C) We need partners because we are a minority!
V.18

18 For many walk,

“For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” Matthew 7:13

Two roads; A broad road that leads to destruction – and a narrow road that leads to life – Few are on that narrow road.

A) Paul echoes that same idea here

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is

destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

B) As you seek to live your Christian life in this culture – **do you ever feel like you don't fit in?**

1) You should feel that way!!!!

C) You see most of the people in the world are living to please themselves – their flesh

D) They are living to please their fleshly appetites – their mind **is set solely on earthly things –**

1) Problems with earthly things is they don't satisfy – proverbial want and hunger –

One of the things that concerns me about the Church today here in America is this

A) Many Christians are trying to see how much like the world they can be

B) Putting a lot of effort and energy into trying to fit in and be liked – be cool.

C) Now Paul did say this about himself – I have become all things to all men that I might win Some

D) Here is what that means – When Paul was in a new environment he looked for common ground – that would give him an opportunity to share Jesus.

E) He wasn't trying to fit in with the culture – so that he wouldn't stand out.

1) He was looking for common ground and common interest – open door to share Jesus

F) Car show yesterday – Saved by Grace

1) What is grace – Red Corvette – conversation peace what else do you do- Mission work – gospel

I see many in the church today – trying so hard to fit in to the culture so that they don't stand out at all.

A) When there is nothing different from the culture in the way we talk live or our pursuits –

B) THERE IS A PROBLEM!!!!

“We do not want, a church that will move with the world. We want a church that will move the world.” —G. K. Chesterton

B) Paul is primarily focus in V.18-19 is on appetites and mindset –

1) The world has an appetite to please the flesh

C) Many People who work with you in your companies work to get a promotion – **more prestige more glory more self fulfillment**

1) More money – to buy more things

As Christians our primary pursuit needs to be the glory of God!

A) Great work ethic – because we want to bring glory to God

B) If promotion and pay raise are BENEFITS to that **and usually they are** - Praise the Lord!

1) But our focus is different

C) If we get a Pay raise our first focus – shouldn't be – how can I buy more stuff ?

D) It should be how can I impact the Kingdom

1) Because our Mindset is to be different:

E) Our mindset is not on earthly things – but heavenly things

1) Because we know – this world is not our home

We need partners to constantly remind ourselves of these things!

A) The Christian life is so much easier –and so much more fun **when you are running in the same direction as other believers**

B) If your group of friends are all spiritually minded and moving in that same direction –

1) Focus is Spiritual things – Kingdom pursuits
You will inspire one another –

C) But if your group of friends are all focused on earthly things

1) you will be competitive and resent each other, envious of each other

D) When they get a New Car – You will think I need a new car – or how come them and not me?

E) Their house is better than my house – A Competition mindset that breeds a dissatisfaction

Question: Who are your partners?

Are you running with others who inspire you in Jesus – because they are spiritually minded

A) Or are you running with those – you compete with and resent **because they are so earthly and fleshly focused.**

B) ONLY takes one person to change the whole mindset and focus of a group – in the right direction

C) #1 Citizens need partners

#2 Citizens of heaven wait for a place V.20 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Jesus told his disciples in John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; *if it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

A) Father's house – Many Dwelling places!

B) Paul says because our citizenship is in Heaven – we wait eagerly for that Place.

1) What comes to your mind when you hear the world Eagerly?

C) Child – he knows that a surprise is coming – they are so excited they can hardly contain themselves

1) Is it time now? – Are we there yet?

I see this OFTEN when I do a wedding: I am with the groom waiting for the wedding to start.

A) There is a nervous excitement – sometimes sweat –

B) sometimes they have a hard time talking about anything

C) Eagerly describes and excited expectation!

Does that describe your heart in relationship to waiting for Jesus to come and take you to heaven?

A) Do you find yourself wondering – Lord is it going to be today?

B)Or are you bored and disinterested in his coming?

Are you distracted by so many other things!

C)Listen: The reason citizen's of heaven are waiting eagerly for the Lord to come – is this:

1)They are excited to see their King!

D)The more in love you are with Someone the more eager you are to be with them!

The first time I ever went on an overseas mission trip it was 21 days!

A)First time away from Denise and Aaron was under 2 yrs old

B)The First week of the trip was exciting – but the last two were brutal.

1)God was doing great things in Hungary and Yugo where we were ministering –

2)but – any down time – Brutal – I missed them

C)Why today when I go on a mission trips I try to make it 8-10 max

1)and fill it with as much activity as possible

D)Very little down time as possible – I just end up missing Denise so much.

1)Russia – forfeit going to St Petersburg – to get home

E)Once – I get on the plane – there is this eager excitement – **can't get there fast enough**

1)because I am so excited to see my Bride!

I want to live with that same kind of excitement about Seeing Jesus

A)Discovered – **the More I fall in love with Him – the more that eagerness grows in my heart.**

B)And More I am around and running with people who have that same expectation – the better

C)Stir up one another to love – Love Jesus and good works – do more for Him!

D)So citizens of heaven – **Walk with Partners, wait for a place – really a person**

#3 Citizens of heaven will receive a Promotion

A)Paul says – not only are we going to heaven –

B)but let me put the icing on the cake V.21 Who – speaking of Christ - **who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.**

C)When you get to Heaven this thing – this body is getting an upgrade!

D)People ask, well, how am I going to look in Heaven? Easy answer. Better. Much better.

Many polls taken that have asked people this question-- if you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

A)The typical answer is something to do with Physical appearance.

B)They want to change something about their outward appearance.

1)Body image consciousness even affects young people

There was a little boy named Johnny who always sucked his thumb, and his mom wanted to break him of the habit.

So one day, he was sucking his thumb and she said, Johnny, what good thing could possibly come from you doing that?

And he took his thumb out, and held it up, and he said, well, it is non-fattening.

But one day your dream will come true.

A)Every citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven will get a resurrected, glorified body,

B)that is going to be **1000 times** better than any face-lift, any skin cream, any Botox, any diet program, 1)And it's all free.

C)Paul says Jesus will transform our lowly body
1)Another translation – Vile body

Some of you young people – think my body is not Vile – I work out – I kind of like my body.

A)Just Give it time! – Things begin to sag and you get bigger in all the wrong places

B)Harder and takes longer to get in shape and it is way easier to get out of shape!

C)Your body will feel Vile – in due time

But not this work transform – literally refers to more than just the outward – English Schematic

A)Our bodies are going to get New Schematic –

B)Our lowly bodies and going to resemble – Jesus glorious body

C)So you're going to have new capabilities in this new body.

Imagine having a body that will never wear out.

A)Imagine having a body that never gets tired, never gets exhausted.

B)Imagine **having a body** that is not susceptible to disease, handicaps, atrophy, and aches and pains.

C)Imagine having a body **that never gains weight.**

1)Eat whatever you want!!!!

D)Imagine having a body that - Never loses hair. Never gets wrinkled. Hallelujah!

1)A body that Never sags or stoops.

E)That glorified, **upgraded body** is a guaranteed perk for every citizen of Heaven.

Now when I Think of a new Schematic – I think of a New Program

A)Doesn't just look differently it is programed differently

B)I like this – because the transformation has started right now – New Schematic – on the inside

C)Transformation starts here: Inside – heart change – schematic change – priorities and pursuits

1)Our focus and passions –

D)Our attitudes and outlook – being transformed – be more like Jesus

E)I love how Paul puts in 2 Corinthians 4:16 **“the outward man is perishing the inward man is being renewed Day by Day.”**

IN Heaven – the Inward and the outward come together - Total transformation

Closing Are you a Citizen of Heaven?

If not – How do you become one?