





OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN

HEAVEN

Philippians 3:17-20

The Value of Citizenship

“From the Republic to the Empire, civitas—full Roman citizenship—was prized by those who had it and coveted by those who did not.”

- In 28 B.C. Roman Emperor Augustus ordered an Imperial census
 - Only **9%** of his subjects were counted as citizens
- Citizenship in ancient Rome was a privileged political and legal status
 - Women had a limited form of citizenship
 - Conquered people could receive a limited form of citizenship
 - Freedmen were not automatically given citizenship (Acts 22:28)
 - Slaves were considered property and lacked legal personhood

The Power and Appeal of Citizenship

“But our citizenship is in heaven...” (Phil. 3:20)

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28)

“You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Eph. 2:19)

- Would have brought to mind the **rights** of citizenship
- Would have brought to mind the **responsibilities** of citizenship
- Would have brought to mind the **rewards** of citizenship



Live, Love & Lead

Citizens of Heaven in the World

Live in the World

We have been “*sent into the world*” – Jn. 17:13-18

- He armed us with God’s sanctifying word
- His mission has become our mission

We are to shine in the darkness – Phil. 2:14-16

- “*in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation*”

We are exiles “*among the Gentiles*” – 1 Pet. 2:11-12

We remember where we live to stress how we live

Love the World

Not the place, the people

- the inhabitants of the earth... the human race [Thayer]

Just like God does – Jn. 3:16

- *“by this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”*

(1 John 3:16)

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” – Mt. 22:39

“Love your enemies” – Mt. 5:44

Just like Jesus does – Lk. 23:34; Rom. 5:6-10

Lead the World

We live in the world, and we love the world, so that we might lead the world to Christ

- *“You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.”*
(2 Cor. 3:2)

We are pilgrims with purpose...

- *“they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”* (1 Pet. 2:12)

We have a **responsibility** to be salt and light...

- *“so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* (Mt. 5:16)



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