

Joy in Christ
Citizens of Heaven
Philippians 3:15-21

1. As citizens of heaven, we can all find unity in our commitment to Christ.

2. As citizens of heaven, we can learn to mature by following others.

***Philippians 3** ¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.*

***1 Corinthians 4** ¹⁵ Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you to imitate me.*

3. As citizens of heaven, we need to be on guard against enemies of Christ.

***Philippians 3** ¹⁸ Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame.*

***Romans 16** ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*

***Romans 8** ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.*

4. As citizens of heaven, our hope is in the return of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

***Philippians 3** ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

***1 Corinthians 15** ⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed...For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

***1 Thessalonians 4** ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*