



Community Group Sermon Application Questions- Week of Sunday 10/13

### **Philippians 1:27-30: “Citizens of Heaven”**

**Central Truth:** Citizens of heaven stand united with a settled confidence in the power of Christ over all.

Begin by reading the passage together. In this passage we see:

#### **2 Intertwined Imperatives of our Heavenly Citizenship**

##### **Walk Together with Confidence in Him (vv. 27-28)**

- 1) As we read this passage and hear Paul’s testimony in chapter 1, what does it mean that we are citizens of heaven on earth? In what ways might our heavenly citizenship both resemble and look different from our earthly citizenship? How should our heavenly citizenship empower us on earth?
- 2) What do you make of the fact that Paul’s first command to the Philippian church involves pursuing unity in the church (also the case in Ephesians 4:1-4)? Why is the presence and unity of our church family necessary for us to contend for the faith?
- 3) How should the reality of our heavenly citizenship, expressed now (church) and in the future (kingdom of heaven), gives us unflappable confidence even amid an opposing world?

##### **Be Ready to Suffer for Him (vv. 29-30)**

- 1) What do you make of the military/conflict language in verse 29? How is the Christian life like a war? Why is that metaphor important?
- 2) What might it look like to suffer well for Christ (both in our trials and because we hold to the truth of scripture)? How can we prepare well if and/or when we are called to suffer for the name of Jesus? How we can remember and encourage those around the world who are suffering for the name of Jesus?
- 3) In our comfort-driven culture, we often fail to see faith and persecution as a package deal for believers. How can this faulty mindset be harmful to our spiritual life? What steps do we need to take to combat this faulty mindset in our own hearts? How can we help our church family do the same?