

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Philippians 1:27-30

These questions are for the **November 3, 2024** message, “JOY IN CHRIST: unwavering confidence in uncertain times – **Worthy Citizens.**” Please read the sermon passage (Philippians 1:27-30) together out loud.

Passage Outline

Whatever happens, let your citizenship in heaven...

1. Produce a gospel priority. (27a)
 - A. The people of Philippi were obsessed with their earthly citizenship (Roman).
 - B. Paul encouraged them to focus, rather, on living out their citizenship in a Godly manner.
 - 1) Live in the Roman colony of Philippi, but live as worthy citizens “of your heavenly homeland.”
 - 2) We are to proclaim the reign of Jesus, and redemption through Him.
2. Set your life’s convictions. (27b-28)
 - A. Be unified in the Spirit—stand firm together.
 - B. Strive side-by-side—Put your best work into the teamwork of church life/community.
 - C. Don’t be frightened by anything in your opponents.
3. Grant you two gifts. (29-30)
 - A. Belief in Jesus Christ
 - B. Suffering for Jesus’ sake, that points us back to Jesus and emphasizes the sufficiency of God’s grace

Pastor Jon’s four encouragements as we consider politics in this world:

1. Vote! (Romans 13:1, subject to governing authorities)
2. Pray! 1 Timothy 2:1-2, pray for our leaders that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life)
3. Support the candidates that most righteously uphold what the Scriptures say
4. Run to your broken neighbors with kindness and love (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, God draws hurt and flawed people to Himself. We need to join Him in that mission)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Jon mentioned that the people of Philippi were very concerned about their earthly citizenship, and perhaps less concerned about their citizenship in heaven. What are some of the ways we show that same tendency today? How can we maintain our focus on our heavenly citizenship, even as we exercise our earthly citizenship?
2. What are some common opponents to the Gospel? How can we “stand firm together” to face them?
3. What does it mean to “put our best work into the teamwork” of church life and community?
4. Pastor Jon cited two gifts we are granted by God as we follow Jesus in our heavenly citizenship. The first is “Belief in Jesus Christ,” and the second is suffering for Jesus’ sake. How do the two gifts relate to one another? And how is suffering a gift?
5. What are some ways that we can build the kind of sincere community among believers that allows us to stand firm together?