

## The Book of Philippians | Chapter 3 - Embrace Your Citizenship in Heaven

### Message Big Idea

To live as a citizen of heaven is to follow the example of Jesus and grow to maturity in Christ.

### Scripture

Philippians 2:19-4:1

### Points to Keep In Mind

1. Philippi was a Roman colony meaning the citizens of Philippi were expected to adopt the customs, values, and practices of the Roman Empire. They were called to allegiance to Caesar and adherence to the Roman way. So, in Philippians, Paul reminds Christ-followers that their allegiance is to Jesus, and they are called to follow him in his Kingdom way.
2. What does it mean to have a genuine concern for someone? We might say that a person with a false concern might be looking to get the scoop on what's happening in someone else's life. A person with genuine concern is motivated by serving a person in need. Maturity in Christ compels us to serve and help others in need and not simply be up to date on the latest gossip.
3. Paul was brought up with an impressive pedigree. He was on the fast track to making a name for himself in the Jewish religious establishment of the day. He was intense and powerful. He had taken it upon himself to defend his Jewish heritage by arresting and persecuting anyone who claimed to be a follower of Jesus. Yet, when he had an encounter with Jesus, he left all those credentials behind to follow Jesus with all of the same passion.
4. Whenever we talk about leaving the past behind, that doesn't mean leaving unresolved conflicts in our wake or continuing our lives without self-awareness. We have to face the past to go forward by forgiving ourselves and others. It's a bit of a teeter-totter to manage – to forgive, heal, learn from our past, and then get on with the future God calls us to embrace.

### Next Steps

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your YOU+ journey? Check out [communitychristian.org/you](http://communitychristian.org/you)
3. Have you considered getting baptized? Learn more at [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
4. Would you commit to reading Philippians every day through the Community Daily? [communitychristian.org/daily](http://communitychristian.org/daily)
5. If anyone in your small group is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/mentalhealth](http://communitychristian.org/mentalhealth)