

Series: Citizens of Heaven: Social Issues and the Sacred Mind
Title: Questions answered about the citizen of heaven
Text: Philippians 3:20-21

Maybe you have listened to Christian individuals speak with great conviction of things that you have read in the Bible and held true, and you sit there and ask, **“How can they hold such a position, and believe in the God of the Bible and the Truth that is contained in it?”**

I often am sitting in meetings and someone shares a position that is so contrary to the Bible that my insides cringe.

I have to ask if this is the moment to come and do battle of the minds and battle of the Scriptures.

I have several emotions in that moment

- If they can throw out a position that is clearly in question within society and the church, do I not have the same right, indeed obligation to counter that statement with another position?
- Do they get to make a positional Hit and Run? Declaring their position as fact.... And then not allow any discussion on the matter?
- Is this the moment?
 - Someone else’s dinner party. A memorial service. Christmas dinner, the thanksgiving table?
- Are we alone or are others present that might be influenced?
- If I am silent, will their position influence younger minds regarding what I see to be truth?

If alone, I will often say. That’s interesting, how did you come to that conclusion?

If there are others who can be influenced, I will follow that up with a statement, simply that suggests that their position is one of many and much research ought to be done before any makes a declaration of fact.

I will often present a divergent view, simply to not allow a falsehood to stand uncontested. At a memorial service, Christmas, Thanksgiving I am usually quiet.

- Then I sometimes fall into sin and become passive aggressive with one word.
 - No, it’s not that word. Shame on you all for thinking that.
 - Something like, unbelievable, or controversial, fascinating, interesting, or ok?
 - June hates that!

If there is an absence of the conversation I feel like I am

- Abdicating it
- Abandoning it
- Allowing it to stand
- Admitting defeat

We all have to learn how to think and believe... But also how to behave in a secular world as citizens of heaven

- Love is mandated at all times, kindness is the fruit of the Spirit that must shine through.
- Yet, we must understand that love and kindness cannot be interpreted as condoning, being in agreement, or celebrating things that are contrary to Scripture.

We love but we are not in agreement.

Last week we went through the 5 great divisions in positions so that we know where a person stands in relationship to God so we may better understand that person and not treat them with disdain.

1. God or no God
2. Impersonal god or personal God
3. Sacred or not sacred texts
4. Identity of God
5. Orthodoxy or Apostasy
 - a. You live by what you say you believe, or you don't

No matter where a person stands, we, as Christ followers and as citizens of heaven, are called to love everybody.

We are also called to speak, believe, and BEHAVE in a certain way.

This calls for divine transformation

DIVINE TRANSFORMATION

Here are some verses that address the shift from being a non-citizen to being a citizen and how we are to live accordingly

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ...

- **What we were, we are no longer; and what we are to do as a result**

...⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Ephesians 2:19

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

1 Peter 1:4

...to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...

Luke 22:29-30

...and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

John 14:15

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Questions to be answered about being a Citizen of Heaven

Isn't everyone at some time going to be a citizen of heaven?

No, only those who have confessed their sin and repented.

- **Romans 10:9** *...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- **John 3:3 ESV** *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

No, only those who have died to sin as they become alive in Christ

- **Acts 4:12** *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
- **Colossians 3:1-3** *¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*
- **John 14:6** - *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

No, only those who have been saved by grace through faith.

- **Ephesians 2:8-10** *⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9 ADDED

(the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality)

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Galatians 5:19 ADDED

(sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality)

Just a note: Every single person who has ever walked the earth is guilty of one or more of these things.

- We can never be perfect outside of Christ and He is ever perfecting us to be more like him.

It is when we say that these things are okay with God and our mindset reveals that we accept and condone these things. It is the pride of Uzziah that says these sinful actions can coexist in the presence of a Holy God

- Enmity - the state or feeling of being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something.
- Dissentions – wrath, seditions, heresies
- Strife - angry or bitter disagreement over fundamental issues; conflict.
- Rivalries – (contentions)- dissentions factions, backbiting
- Envy, jealousy
- Fits of anger – short fuse

Do we hunger and thirst for righteousness?

- We have died to the sin nature.... We now live in the new nature which is at war with sin. Sin which GOD has declared.... Not what we have decided.
- There are people who truly believe they are followers of Christ and are heaven bound, who are not transformed from death to life.

They are creedal but not changed

- They live by their own rules, their own way... not by god's teaching
- They are not disciples of Christ.

No! Not everyone enters heaven and are not citizens of heaven.

Are there Rights of a citizen that are not available to non-citizens?

- Yes and No

Yes, as a new creation, we have access to the Holy Spirit

- 2 Cor. 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
- Ezekiel 36:27 *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
- Rom 8:17 Yes, as a child of God, we are joint heirs to the riches of heaven

Yes, we have power over the enemy in the Name of Jesus

- Acts 19:15 – Sons of Sceva – Jesus I know, Paul I know... attacked

No, when it comes to OUR RIGHTS, WE HAVE NONE.

- We give up our rights and our lives to submit to HIS Will and HIS Way.
 - **Romans 6:6** - *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*
 - **1 John 3:6** *No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him*

Are there Restrictions of a citizen of heaven that are not asked of a non-citizen?

Yes, All of them

- Those who have not been saved are not required to follow any restrictions.
- They are not judged by their individual sins. They will be judged by the sin nature that they choose, rather than choose to be a disciple of Jesus. Morality is a band aid trying to heal the cancer of sin.
- Name in the book of Life –
- Rev. 20:15
 - *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

The only gain or benefit a non-citizen receives by following biblical restrictions are a better life and a better society.

What is Required of a Citizen of Heaven?

- **You serve the King.**

John 18:36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my

servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

- You are not the KING, the JUDGE, the BOSS
- HE ALONE IS KING
 - Your compassion for sinners does not eliminate the judgment to come.
 - He is King – The Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah say differently.
 - Your condemnation of the sinner does not eliminate the judgment to come.
 - He is the King – how can you love God and hate your brother?
- We are not fighting for this world.
- He is King over ALL.
- Every knee shall bow!
- Subject all things under HIM.

To the unrepentant, this statement is clear. Jesus says that not all will enter the kingdom of heaven. He is not your KING and He does not know you.

- He is not your king and you know He isn't.
- He is not your king though you say He is.
- **THE ONE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER**

- **You represent the Kingdom.**

John 17:15-17

¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

- Not of the world
- But sent into the world
- You have to live here.... But this is not your home or your country

2 Corinthians 5:20

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- **You live and will be judged by the Word of GOD.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work

- The BIBLE is like the constitution – but greater than.
 - It is to be followed to the letter.
- You believe the texts or you do not.
- You obey the text or you do not.

This is the dividing line that breaks my heart.

I see complete apostasy and heresy being lived out by those who **think** they are living in line with God.....

- But they have walked away from the TRUTH of the Scripture.
- It is no longer the authority.

You will be canceled.

- They feel if we do not condone or overlook other's choices then it is hatred.
- They believe as the world believes for the sake of kindness yet live a lie in God's Way.

Matthew 5:10 *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Brittney Griner – WNBA – 9 years

- In her country THC vapes are allowed, decriminalized, condoned and even celebrated.
- Not all states.... Drive from LA to Florida – you drive through Texas, you will be arrested, prosecuted, judged and convicted of a crime and you will do time.
 - Your opinion on the matter does not matter... The law of that land will be the deciding factor.
- Russia has its laws and they do not care about the laws of this country.
- Heaven has its laws and it does not care about the laws or lawlessness that we have established on earth.... Heaven's judge will judge by heaven's law

Luke 6:46 ESV

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

- **You do not conform to this world**

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Live holy
- Not conformed
- Transformed
- And renewed mind

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- **SO WE LIVE IN THIS WORLD BUT ARE NOT OF THE WORLD**

Some are living as apostates..... Some walk in heresies..... Some have totally conformed to the World.

Traded heaven's facts for personal feelings
Traded the Creator for their own creation
Traded Inerrancy for Interpretation

Do you Believe but do not follow
Do you Accept but do not obey
Do you Align and do not stray

Are you "Secular Christian"— Believe but follow the world?
Are you "Spiritual Christian"— Believe but don't obey?
Are you "Sacred Christian"— Behave like the citizen you are?

Hold to Holiness and the Sacred
**HOW DO WE HANDLE HEAVENLY DECISIONS
WHEN WE LIVE BY THE WORLD'S STANDARD?**

**YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION MUST DETERMINE
YOUR POSITION ON SOCIAL ISSUES
AND EARTHLY MATTERS**

The next two weeks I am going to be looking at the major Social Issues of our Time and Speak to them in light of the Scripture.

I will only be bringing Scripture to the table.

- SCRIPTURE WILL BE THE AUTHORITY

I realize that:

The Secular Atheist will condemn it as foolishness.

The Secular Agnostic will cancel it as false.

The Spiritual Apostate will confuse it as unfeeling.

The Sacred Adherent will say God commands it as fact.

CHALLENGE

DETERMINE THAT YOUR POSITIONS WILL BE
ESTABLISHED BY THE SACRED WORD OF GOD

Love God
Love People