

# **BEHAVE AS CITIZENS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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- A. TEXT: *“Only let your manner of life (behave as citizens worthily) be worthy of the gospel of Christ: that, whether I come and see you or be absent, I may hear of your state, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the gospel; (1:27) “For our citizenship is in heaven;” (3:20).*
- B. PAUL’S FIRST VISIT TO PHILIPPI.
1. On his 2<sup>nd</sup> journey.
  2. “Come over in Macadonia, and help us.” (Acts 16:9).
  3. Conversion of Lydia and the jailer (no one remembered longer, yet we don’t know his name, only his occupation.”
- C. From The Philippian Letter We Have The Picture Of A Strong, Christ Centered Church.
1. Had helped spread the gospel from the beginning.
  2. Much encouragement and help given to Paul.
- D. This Letter Is Paul’s Encouragement To Them To Live As Citizens Of The Kingdom.
1. They were, as was Paul:
    - A. Servants v. 1; bond-servant or slaves, they belonged to Christ.
    - B. Saints - sanctified, set apart in Christ Jesus.
  2. Therefore they were to:
    - A. Stand fast v. 27
    - B. In one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the gospel.” v. 27.
- E. They were to “Behave” or live as good Citizens...The other reading of v. 27.
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## **GOOD CITIZEN**

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- A. WHAT MAKES A GOOD CITIZEN?
1. Obedience.
    - a. Respects and observes the laws of the land.
    - b. Accepts his responsibilities.
  2. Loyalty.
    - a. Faithful - at all time, not just when things are going his way.
    - b. Supports its actions.
    - c. Doesn’t render aid to the enemy.
  3. Productive.
    - a. A giver...not just a taker.
    - b. Some live their whole life on welfare - know how to take every advantage (Not saying ‘welfare’ is bad, - but they that abuse it).

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B. A GOOD CITIZEN IS A POSITIVE NOT A NEGATIVE.

1. Contributor not a liability.
2. We don't really have a problem seeing the difference between a good citizen and a bad citizen.

C. APPLY THESE SAME POINTS TO CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP.

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## **BAD CITIZEN**

A. NOT NECESSARILY A CRIMINAL.

1. One in jail.
2. A fugitive.
3. Or guilty of treason, etc.

B. IT IS ALSO A 'BAD CITIZEN' WHO:

1. Is non productive.
2. Always a taker.
3. Never accepts any responsibility for:
  - a. Upkeep.
  - b. Furtherance
  - c. Serving...leading, etc.

C. SAME PRINCIPLES APPLIED TO THE CHURCH.

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## **OUR CITIZENSHIP**

A. *"For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Phil. 3:20).

1. Those of the world mind earthly things (3:19).
2. We need to mind spiritual things.

B. Much of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter is built around the fact that we are just passing through this world and that our Real Home is Heaven.

1. *"pass the time of your sojourning in fear"* (I Pet. 1:17).
  2. *"Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"* (I Pet. 2:11).
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## **DESIRE THE BENEFITS**

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A. SOME WANT ALL THE BENEFITS OF CITIZENSHIP WITHOUT BEING A CITIZEN.

1. Some want all the benefit that their country has to offer....But they don't want to pay the taxes. Or do their part.
2. They want their country to serve them...but they never serve their country.

B. DO WE HAVE ANY IN THE CHURCH LIKE THAT TODAY?

1. Want to be 'born in church'; married in the church; buried by the church."
  2. Served by the church , but never serving.
  3. Is the church - the kingdom here to serve us or are we here to serve in the kingdom??
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## **CONCLUSION**

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A. WHERE IS YOUR CITIZENSHIP?

1. We all hold citizenship some where....
2. Are you a Christian, a citizen in God's Kingdom?

B. Are you behaving as Citizens worthily of the gospel of Christ?

C. IT'S VALUE.

1. Paul, after being saved from the mob in Jerusalem by the chief captain, was questioned concerning his physical citizenship.
    - a. *"And the chief captain came and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman."*
    - b. *"And he said, Yea."*
    - c. *"And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this Citizenship."* (Acts 22:28).
  2. **A greater Citizenship is offered to us!!**
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**g.r.**