

I Am a Citizen of Heaven

Selected Scriptures

This fall at The Bridge, we are in a sermon series called *Who Do You Think You Are?* Together we are exploring the fascinating topic of **identity**. What we're seeing is that identity is WAY deeper than a role ("father") or a job ("teacher") or a reputation ("nice lady"). Identity is who we really are. It's our essence—when *everything else* is stripped away. And what we're learning is that true health and happiness in this life come when we begin to understand and embrace by faith who God says we are.

Today we are examining the biblical claim (Philippians 3:20) that, as followers of Jesus, we are "**citizens** of heaven." How about that? If you are a Christian, the Bible says your true homeland is **heaven** (not America or some other nation on the earth).

There are at least two implications of Christians being "citizen of heaven":

1. Being citizens of heaven means we are _____.

2. Being citizens of heaven means we have _____.

We have to _____.

We have to _____.

“In Christ...”

I am accepted!

- I am God’s child! (John 1:12)
- I am a friend of Jesus Christ! (John 15:15)
- I have been justified! *i.e., declared righteous through my faith in Christ’s sacrifice for me* (Romans 5:1)
- I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit! (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- I have been bought with a price, and I belong to God! (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- I am a member of—I belong to—Christ’s body! (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- I have been chosen by God and adopted into His family! (Ephesians 1:3-8)
- I have been forgiven of all my sins! (Colossians 1:13-14)
- I am complete in Christ! (Colossians 2:9-10)
- I have direct access to God’s throne of grace! (Hebrews 4:14-16)

I am secure!

- I am a brand-new creature, and my old life has passed away! (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- I am free from any and all condemnation! (Romans 8:1-2)
- I am promised that God works for my good in all life’s circumstances! (Romans 8:28)
- I cannot ever be separated from the love of God! (Romans 8:31-39)
- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God! (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- I am hidden with Christ in God! (Colossians 3:1-4)
- I can be sure that God will complete the good work He has begun in me! (Philippians 1:6)
- I am a citizen of heaven! (Philippians 3:20)
- I don’t have a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and sound mind! (2 Timothy 1:7)
- I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me! (1 John 5:18)

I am significant!

- I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life! (John 15:5)
- I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit for God! (John 15:16)
- I am God’s temple! (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- I am God’s ambassador, His minister of reconciliation! (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
- I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm! (Ephesians 2:10)
- I am God’s “one-of-a-kind masterpiece,” created for good works, which He has sovereignly prepared for me! (Ephesians 2:10)
- I can approach Almighty God with freedom and confidence! (Ephesians 3:12)
- I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me! (Philippians 4:13)
- I have at least one God-given spiritual ability which He wants me to use to dispense His grace to others and build up the body of Christ! (1 Peter 4:10 and Ephesians 4:16)