

# Our Full Identity in Christ Jesus

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## *An 11-Session Bible Study*

Who We Are Because of What He Has Done

Includes: Greek & Hebrew Word Studies · Cross-Reference Trails  
Reflection Questions · Personal Application  
Group Discussion · Prayer Guides

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*"Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

— **Colossians 1:27**

## How to Use This Study

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This study guide contains eleven sessions, one for each foundational truth of Christian identity covered in the blog series. Each session is designed for approximately 60–90 minutes of personal study, or 90 minutes in a group setting.

### **Each session includes:**

Session Focus — a theological grounding for the identity truth, written in accessible language.

Greek/Hebrew Word Studies — the original language behind key terms, with context from the ancient world.

Cross-Reference Trail — connected Scriptures that develop the theme across the biblical narrative.

Reflection Questions — personal, honest questions designed to move from theology to your actual life.

Personal Application — concrete, specific practices to embody the truth this week.

Group Discussion — questions for open, honest conversation with others on the same journey.

Prayer — a closing prayer that speaks the truth back to God as a declaration and invitation.

### A note on approach:

Christian identity is not motivational content. It is covenantal reality — statements about who you are based on what Christ has done. The goal of this study is not information accumulation but genuine reception: learning to live from truths that are already true, rather than striving toward an identity you're hoping to earn.

Go slowly. Return to sessions. Let the word studies open the text in new ways. Use the reflection questions honestly. Pray the prayers as your own — not as liturgy to perform but as declarations to receive.

You are not discovering who you should be. You are discovering who you already are in Christ.

## SESSION 10

# Citizen of Heaven

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*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

— **Philippians 3:20**

### ◆ SESSION FOCUS

Philippi was a Roman military colony — its residents were intensely proud of their Roman citizenship, which granted legal rights, social standing, and loyalty to a distant but supreme power. Paul writes to this specific community: your ultimate citizenship (Greek: politeuma) is not here. It's there. You are a colony of heaven in enemy-occupied territory. This isn't escapism — Paul immediately grounds it in present-tense ethics: "Therefore, stand firm in the Lord" (4:1). Heavenly citizenship doesn't make you absent from the present. It makes you oriented differently within it.

### ◆ GREEK/HEBREW WORD STUDIES

**πολίτευμα**  
*politeuma*

#### **Citizenship, commonwealth, colony**

Only use in the NT. From *polites* (citizen) + *polis* (city). In Greek, often referred to a colony — people living in a foreign place maintaining the culture, laws, and loyalty of their home city. Paul's use for a Roman colony audience is deliberate: you are a colony of heaven, maintaining heaven's culture in a foreign land.

**ἀπεκδέχομαι**  
*apekdechomai*

**To eagerly await, to strain forward in expectation**

Compound verb of intense expectation. Used 7 times in the NT, always for the eager, straining expectation of final redemption (Romans 8:19,23,25; Galatians 5:5; Hebrews 9:28). Not passive waiting — active, forward-leaning, posture-changing anticipation.

**μετασχηματίζει**  
*metaschematizei*

**Will transform, will refashion**

Philippians 3:21 — Christ will transform our lowly bodies. Meta + schema (form). Not annihilate or replace — transform. The continuity matters: it is our bodies that are transformed, not discarded. Resurrection theology, not escape theology.

◆ **CROSS-REFERENCE TRAIL**

**John 14:1–3** Many dwelling places, a prepared place — the language of belonging and home.

**Hebrews 11:13–16** The patriarchs as strangers and exiles — longing for a better country. God prepares a city for them.

**Revelation 21:1–5** New heaven and earth — God dwelling with his people. The final address.

**1 Peter 2:11** Foreigners and exiles — heavenly citizenship as ethical motivation in the present.

**2 Corinthians 5:1–5** The earthly tent versus the eternal dwelling — longing rightly ordered.

◆ **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. What does it mean for your daily life that this world is not your final home? Does that produce in you a holy looseness (holding things with open hands) or a disconnection? Which does Scripture seem to call for?

<i>Your response...</i>

2. Paul says we 'eagerly await' a Savior from heaven. Do you actually live with that kind of forward-leaning expectation? What dims it — and what would re-ignite it?

<i>Your response...</i>

3. A colony of heaven maintains heaven's culture in a foreign land. What does heaven's culture look like (justice, love, peace, forgiveness, abundance)? Where are you maintaining it in the world you inhabit?

<i>Your response...</i>

◆ **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

→ Identify two or three ways you're currently overly anchored to something that isn't your ultimate home — security in money, fear of death, identity in earthly status. Bring each to God with open hands.

→ Read Hebrews 11:13–16 slowly. The great faith heroes 'saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them.' What would it look like to orient your week around that longer horizon?

→ Choose one way this week to 'maintain heaven's culture' in your corner of the world — an act of justice, generosity, or reconciliation that reflects the city you belong to.

#### ◆ GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How has Western Christianity tended to distort heavenly citizenship — either into escapism ('this world doesn't matter') or into ignoring it ('we're too heavenly-minded to be of any earthly good')? Where do you personally tend to err?
2. The politeuma language implies maintaining a culture. What are the defining marks of heaven's culture? And how well does your community/life reflect those marks?
3. Philippians 3:20 immediately leads to 4:1 — 'therefore stand firm.' How does knowing your citizenship is in heaven actually make you more stable in the present, not less?
4. What is something you're currently holding too tightly — something you need to hold with the looser grip of someone whose ultimate home is not here?

#### ◆ PRAYER

*Father of the city that awaits me,  
help me to hold this world's goods and sorrows with open hands.  
Not because they don't matter — they do.  
But because you have prepared a place,  
and my security is rooted there, not here.  
Let my life in this world look like a colony of heaven —  
maintaining your culture, reflecting your justice, carrying your hope.  
Come, Lord Jesus.  
Amen.*