

The Model for Joy
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Phil 2:1-11
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Synopsis:

We have been looking at how to find joy in our lives. Last week I told you that joy is the result of a certain focus—with the right focus we find joy.

This week we look at how to live in joy. Living in joy is like living in a city. We are citizens not of Laguna Woods or Aliso Viejo, but of the city called Jesus. A citizen of Jesus lives *in* Jesus. The more the life of Jesus gets in you, the more you live in Jesus, the more a citizen of Jesus you are.

I.

Being a Citizen

Phil 1:27 Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel

Our hometown determines our identity:

- Born? Knoxville, Tenn
- Accent? Southern Mtns (nice, white, bright, ice, cokes)
- Like mtns and water
- Fond of BBQ
- Bluegrass Music
- Say “Yes Ma’am, and No Sir”
- UT football (You can have Lane Kiffin!)
- *You can take a boy out of the south,
but you can’t take the south out of the boy!

What’s your hometown?

How has your hometown made you who you are?

We act as products of who we are = citizens of a particular city

Behavior follows Being

II.

Being a Citizen of Jesus

Phil 2:1 If there is any encouragement *in Christ*

Paul and Philippi: A Roman Colony

- my hometown is full of BBQ, Bluegrass, and Big Orange
- Philippi was a Roman Colony: military retirement community
- Philippi was full of the Emperor = Caesar
 - Via Egnatia* went through town
 - Mini-Rome = live as if in Rome
 - Amphitheater there
 - Roman baths

Caesar is *Soter* and *Kurios* = Savior and Lord
“every knee should bow and every tongue confess”
Benefits of Roman citizen

SUM: Paul used Roman citizenship to talk about Jesus citizenship

Language:

1:21 to live *is* Christ = Being determined by citizenship
1:27 Live your life = *politeuomai* = citizen behavior
2:1 In Christ = *in Philippi* (see 1:1)
2:2 Full accord = *sum-psyche* = same life
2:5 Same mind *in* Christ = citizen of Jesus

POINT:

We aren't citizens of Philippi
We are citizens of Jesus
Benefits of citizen = READ 2:1

Our identity is not Orange County, CA

We have been born anew in Jesus through death/resurrection
Being = we are now *in* Jesus Christ
Behavior follows being

III.

Behaving as a Citizen of Jesus

Phil 2:5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus

If we are *in* Jesus (being), how do we behave?

READ 2:5-11

Here's our life model
Jesus is actually lord (9-11) but he shows up as slave (6-8)
*key characteristic is suffering
-I don't like suffering

contrast here between slave = *doulos* and lord = *kurios*

-I like being in charge instead of serving

Caesar behavior: a political lifestyle

Power
Demanding
Exploiting

Jesus behavior: a political lifestyle

Humility
Obedience
Suffer

READ 2:2-4 Further behavior

Here's the take home:

-If you want joy, you won't find it in Caesar behavior

-If you want joy, you will find it in Jesus behavior

*Don't change your behavior by trying harder

*Change by living *in* Jesus

*Verb *think* (translated here *mind*) occurs 3x (2:2, 5)

THINK THROUGH JESUS "I am a citizen of Jesus."

TO DO: memorize Phil 2:5-11

-meditate on it

-visualize it

-sing it

-ask Jesus to shape you into a citizen