

Philippians (3 of 8)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, August 25th, 2024



Series Focus: In his final days on earth, the Apostle Paul wrote a heartfelt letter to the church in Philippi from a prison cell in Rome. What does it look like to be faithful to Jesus in a world of competing allegiances? Is it possible for the church to remain calm, be at peace, and live with joy in a society that is seriously lacking it? And how do we live as “citizens of heaven” in a world seemingly going to hell? In this series, we will be encouraged to view all of life through the lens of the cross and to live out our faith together in humility, service, and love—all the while anticipating the Lord’s return.

Sermon Title: Our Life as Citizens

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:35-40; 17:1-9; Philippians 1:27-2:4; Colossians 4:5-6

Sermon Focus: For Christians, our relationship with Jesus is personal, but it’s not private. We are disciples all the time, everywhere we go, in everything we do. Paul tells the Philippians that their civic conduct and political life should reflect their commitment to Jesus as they navigate a world full of competing allegiances. In the third message of our series, Pastor David invites us to apply our faith to the way we live as citizens.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading Philippians 1:27-2:4. Take a few minutes to read it silently to yourselves, and then have someone in the group read it aloud. What words and phrases stick out to you? What do you see as a key verse(s) in this passage?
2. Pastor David broke down Philippians 1:27a and showed us what goes into translating this verse, and what it appears that Paul meant by *politeuesthe* (civic life/conduct) in the context of the whole letter. Was this helpful to you? Why is this so significant for understanding this letter and how we are to live today?
3. Pastor David talked about the dangers of compartmentalizing faith and politics (civic life), and of syncretism—merging our faith with our country, nationalism, or a political party, etc. And then he showed a picture of an American flag merged with the Christian flag that he saw in a store in Texas! Share how you see both compartmentalizing and syncretism missing the mark of true Christianity and faithfully following Jesus, who said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (Jn 18:36).
4. The church is called to be fearless and maintain a united front against the powers that oppose her and the gospel of Jesus. What do you see are the major threats to real unity in the church around the gospel and mission? Are those concerns evident at Grantham? How can/should we respond together?
5. The church is called to operate within the civic, public, and political spheres of our polis (city) in a way that honors and glorifies Christ, who is our Lord and the true Savior of the world. What do you think this looks like today? And how can we do this in a way that doesn’t appear that our loyalty is with a political party? Be specific as you think about what this does and doesn’t look like.
6. Be honest. Do you always reflect Jesus and the gospel in the way you engage with others in the civic, public, and political spheres? Would family, friends, and neighbors say that your civic conduct (including your heart, attitude, & speech) is reflective of Christ? And is your identity in Christ and your membership in his Body—the church—greater and stronger than your political opinions?
7. Close together in prayer for what each other and our congregation as we continue to open our hearts and minds up to the message of Philippians.