

# THE KINGDOM



THRONE | PURPOSE | BOUNDARIES | CITIZENS

## Sermon Discussion Guide

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*Use this discussion guide with your small group or by yourself, to dig into the text and theme of Sunday's message.*

**Key Point: Our citizenship, our home, is in heaven not on earth.**

**Life Sharing: (answer one)**

1. Describe a time you wanted to be part of a group that you were excluded from.
2. Have you ever had to be initiated into a group or team?

**Transition / Open in prayer:**

3. What are a few ways to create a welcoming environment at our church so that all people know they matter to God?

**Life Examination:**

*READ Philippians 3:12-21*

4. How is our relationship with Jesus like a race? What is the prize Paul is pressing toward?
5. What is it that these Christians had already attained? (vs. 16)
6. What caused Paul to tear up in verse 18?
7. How are "enemies of the cross" and "citizens of heaven" different? How are they similar?

*READ 1 Peter 2:9-17*

8. How do you feel about the words in verse 9?
9. What is the purpose of our good lives? What is the purpose of our submission to authority?
10. What is the warning Peter gives about our freedom?

**Life Application:**

11. What are you pressing on toward in your faith these days? What area of your faith are you hoping to see change in the next month?
12. How has the Spirit of God changed you from an "enemy of the cross" into something new?
13. It can be difficult to hold onto our identity as chosen, royal, holy, and belonging. What are some ways to embrace the reality of this identity?
14. List a few ways to abstain from sinful desires. How can you stand against the temptation to compromise?
15. We know that when Peter said "submit yourself to every authority instituted among men" he was writing about the Roman empire and the emperor Nero, who was godless and brutal. How do you reconcile the tension of Peter's instruction?

**Life Prayers:** Pray for one another and ask God to help you focus on heaven, where your citizenship is.