

Together WE Can Make It Matter

SESSION ONE | Together WE...Are Citizens of Heaven

*“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.” – **Philippians 1:21-26 ESV***

*“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...” – **Philippians 3:20 ESV***

FACT: We cannot make “it” matter, until will commit to living as citizens of heaven

A Citizen of Heaven is **REDEEMED**

- The message is the gospel
- The mission is God’s desired will
- The motive is redemption

A Citizen of Heaven is **FAMILY**

- The gospel takes strangers and makes them family
- In Christ, we are all sons and daughters of God, part of the family of God, and therefore brothers and sisters in Christ
- “Together WE” begins with the understanding that “I am redeemed, and fellow believers are family.”

A Citizen of Heaven lives **WORTHY**

- Togetherness begins with understanding identity. So, the challenge becomes to
 - Live your Identity
 - Live Worthy of the Gospel
 - Live like a Citizen of Heaven

Final Truth: Together WE are:

- “.... *created in His image and His likeness*” – Gen. 1:27
- “.... *fearfully and wonderfully made*” – Psalm 139:14

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SESSION ONE SMALL GROUPS QUESTIONS

1. What are a few things that stuck out to you most from this session?
2. In your opinion, what does it mean to be “citizens of heaven” (Philippian 1:27)? Does this truth change how you see yourself? Why or why not?
3. What are some ways you can help your friends and family understand and adopt these truths?
4. Out of the three statements, which one (if any) do you struggle with most? (a) Living redeemed, (b) Seeing yourself a part of God’s family, or (b) Feeling worthy?
5. What are some personal changes or adjustments you can make in your life to make sure you are living as a “citizen of heaven”?

SESSION TWO | Together WE...Advance God's Mission

“Just one thing: *As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel,* ²⁸ *not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God.”* – **Philippians 1:27-28 CSB**

Together WE Have:

ONE Mission: Contending together is a **Team Sport**

- Church is called to **work together**, as **one unit**, and **one accord**, toward this **one goal**: “for the faith of the gospel” (Phil 1:27).

Mission GO: *The Great Commission*

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* – **Matthew 28:19-20 ESV**

ONE Motive: Contending is motivated by **Conviction**, Not **Compromise**

- We are on the SAME TEAM: with the wardrobe of grace as our jersey, the Messiah and self as our captain, and the gospel as our playbook, our team is supernaturally bonded together forever!

Motive LOVE: *The Great Commandment*

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” – **Matthew 22:36-39 ESV**

Final Thought: In a world that has been so divided, just imagine what could be, if we were united around this **ONE idea of togetherness** that is centered exclusive on the truth of the gospel!

SESSION TWO | Together WE...Advance God's Mission

SESSION TWO SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Read Philippians 1:27-28 again. After listening to all of the sessions, what is our one mission TOGETHER?
2. Have you ever been a part of any type of team (sports, cheer, band, debate, club, etc.)? If so, what are some important characteristics or traits that make up a winning team?
3. When you hear the phrase, "Contending is motivated by conviction, not compromise", what does that mean to you?
4. As you witness all of the difficult things that have gone on in the world, since COVID-19, what breaks your heart the most? What encourages you the most?
5. What are some things you can do to help promote a spirit of unity and togetherness with your generation, your church community, your family, your friends, culture? What are some practical "next steps" that you are willing to commit to (individually and collectively)?