

I. Citizens of heaven should grow in their faith (v. 15-17)

- A. We grow in our spiritual understanding
- B. We grow through listening to God
- C. We grow through obedience to what we know

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

- D. We grow through following good examples

II. Citizens of heaven should be aware of enemies of the cross (v. 18-19)

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

- A. Enemies of the cross are destined for destruction

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36)

- B. Enemies of the cross are driven by sensual appetites
- C. Enemies of the cross are proud of shameful things
- D. Enemies of the cross are dedicated to material things

III. Citizens of heaven should live to honor Christ (v. 20-21)

- A. Citizens of heaven trust in Jesus as Savior

“He saved us through the washing or rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.” (Titus 3:5-6)

- B. Citizens of heaven are destined for eternal life

“However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written down in heaven.” (Luke 10:20)

- C. Citizens of heaven desire to do God’s will
- D. Citizens of heaven give all the glory to God
- E. Citizens of heaven have a heavenly mindset

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:2)

- F. Citizens of heaven represent God on earth

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

G. Citizens of heaven trust in the great power of Christ

H. Citizens of heaven expect future transformation

“And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear this likeness of the man from heaven.” (I Corinthians 15:49)