

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Drawn from “Citizenship & Imitation,” a Sermon on Phil 3:17-4:1

June 14, 2026 AM

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith Pres Tacoma

1. Central to the sermon text is the idea of a Roman citizen living far from Rome (in Philippi). Talk about an experience of being in a foreign land, culture, or social environment (“Foreign” here could include a local environment where your values, background, and assumptions were not shared). Where was your sense of identity challenged or misunderstood? How did you retain your sense of identity?
2. Look again at the way Paul uses the metaphor of citizenship in verse 20. How would the original audience have understood this concept in their own context? Why does Paul use this metaphor?
3. Look again at verse 20, where Paul calls Jesus “Lord” and “Savior.” Talk about how these terms were used in the Roman empire of Paul’s time, and how applying these common terms to Jesus challenged the beliefs and values of the Roman world.
4. Compare verse 18 with 3:2-6 and the wider context of Paul’s other letters. Who are some of the most likely groups and/or types of people Paul had in mind when wrote about “enemies of the cross of Christ?”

