

26th March 2022

Citizens

**“Every citizen will make his own contribution
to the activities of the community.”**

Morelly, Code de la Nature (1755)

Did you know there's an on-line clothing brand called *Citizen of Heaven*? It's got its own logo, and a range for men as well as women if you're interested. Its website tells us that its ethos is “applying Grace & Truth with Godly Wisdom”, and explains its approach:

What is meant by our being citizens in heaven? It means that we are under heaven's government. Christ, the King of Heaven, reigns in our hearts. The glory which belongs to beautified saints belongs to us, for we are already sons of God. Since we are *citizens of heaven*, let our walk and actions be consistent with our high dignity.

20% off your first order

Stay up to date on the latest apparel releases, special offers & giveaways by signing up for our newsletter.

In his letter to the Philippians, St Paul has a different take on the same theme. With resonances of the situation in Ukraine, he writes:

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do we need a branded T-Shirt to show that we are Citizens of Heaven? Isn't being “clothed in Christ”, following the example of those who have gone before us, standing for justice, combatting evil, speaking truth to power, calling out the enemies of the Cross, enough for us to display our true calling? And are we attracted by “20% off”, or is being a Citizen of Heaven, as Paul would have it, not a 100% commitment?

“I tell you even with tears”, said Paul. And I do likewise, especially when I see those whose “minds are set on earthly things” causing pain, suffering and destruction. And I don't need a branded T-Shirt to show that.

A prayer for today

Let me work well as a Citizen of Heaven, Lord; to clothe myself in righteousness; to stand for what is good and holy; to serve you as I ought. And all to the Glory of God, and the strengthening of His kingdom. Amen