

Marks of a Disciple Lesson 3: “Eternally Minded”

Eternally minded disciples recognize that they are citizens of heaven. (Philippians 3:20, Hebrews 13:14)

What are some ways you tend to focus on the here and now? How does this keep you from focusing on your citizenship in heaven?

1. Citizens of heaven are strangers and exiles on the earth. (1Peter 2:11)

What’s the difference between being an exile and a citizen? How does the way Peter describes you as a Christian contrast with the way you often see yourself?

How should our exile status affect the way we live and the choices we make? How does this way of living stand in contrast to the self-gratifying world we live in?

2. Citizens of heaven conduct themselves honorably. (1Peter 2:12)

What does it look like to do good deeds in the places God has called you? How does doing good works cause people to recognize your exile status?

What ideas do you have for how a Christian man can honor God while living among the people of the earth? How might Christian men be a bit too comfortable living in this world? What are some tips you’ve found helpful for embracing our heavenly citizenship?

Eternally minded disciples seek the things above.

1. We seek the things above because we are raised with Christ. (Colossians 3:1-4)

What does it mean to be "raised with Christ?" How should being raised with Christ affect every area of our lives?

2. We seek the things above as we put off sin. (Colossians 3:5-11)

Where do you see Colossians 5:5-11 lived out in our culture? What hope is available to those who are pursuing these things?

If being in Christ means we can reject these sins, why do we sometimes fall into them?

What practical advice do you have for a man who wants to actively set his mind on the things above?

3. We seek the things above as we put on virtue. (Colossians 3:12-17)

How are the virtues in Colossians 3:12-17 different from the virtues the world embraces?

How does setting your mind on Christ help you live these verses out?

Why is it common, even for Christian men, to base their self-worth on what they have done instead of what Christ has done?

For Personal Reflection

How can the men in your group pray for you? What do you need to let go of in order to focus more fully on eternity? Over the next week, how will you set your mind on the things above?

How often do you consider God and what pleases Him in your daily life?

Do you find that you're more concerned about self-fulfillment or living a life pleasing to God?

How can the previous marks of a disciple - a repentant life and healthy habits - help you focus your attention toward heaven?

Being eternally minded means that we eagerly anticipate the return of Christ. Do you honestly long for Christ to return or does the prospect of His return make you anxious? How might you incorporate this into your prayers this week?