

The Joy of Dual citizenship



Disciples of the Way Ministries

*A Ministry of People of All Nations
reaching out to People from All Nations*

***"For our citizenship is in heaven,
from which we also eagerly await for
the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ..."***

Philippians 3:20



"The Joy of Dual Citizenship"

*"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly await for
the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"* Philippians 3:20

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared at the Disciples of the Way (DOW) Refugee Service Care Center (RSCC) every day.

Periodically, DOW missionaries and staff educate refugees in ESL classes and prepare them for citizenship classes which, in turn, enable them to take their final U.S. citizenship test at the immigration office.

Some are unable to take the test in English, and others struggle with

issues like PTSD due to the wars and persecutions back in their home countries. OUR RSCC personnel help these refugees fill out the required forms and also provide emotional support. Our missionaries often serve as translators during the final test. As a result, these refugees become new American citizens. In the process many become our friends and make DOW their new refuge for many years.



RSCC office assisting neighbors of all nations

It's a DOW tradition to hold special "citizenship celebrations" where we invite our new American friends and their families for food and fellowship.

After suffering the loss of being separated from their loved ones back home, they all claim that having a dual citizenship and becoming free American citizens is a great liberating reward. One refugee exclaimed, "Oh, what a joy it is to be able to go back home to visit our families and know that we're protected as American citizens. America's got our backs."



Living as Citizens of Both Earth and Heaven Because of Jesus

Many of our Muslim refugee neighbors who attend our weekly bible study marvel at hearing **Philippians 3:19-20**. They often ask, "How is it possible for Christians to call themselves citizens of heaven while

they're still on Earth? How do Christians know for certain if they have done enough good works to qualify as citizens of heaven?"

To live as both citizens of Earth and citizens of heaven is *backward theology* for many of our Muslim-American friends. Muslims aren't certain about their salvation and can't imagine themselves in heaven without first doing enough good works on Earth. In Islam, only Allah knows if he will grant them citizenship in heaven. How can any person speak so confidently about being a citizen of heaven while alive on Earth?

The Quran (Koran) teaches that justification is by *works alone* through Sharia law in order to somehow please Allah for the day of judgment. In order for a Muslim to enter heaven, he or she must first become righteous on Earth by doing numerous good works. It's like reading Ephesians 2:8-10 in reverse—it's the opposite of being saved by grace through faith in Christ!

We teach and remind our Muslim friends that although Christians are citizens of the world's various nations, we are first and foremost citizens of heaven.



We are people whose ultimate loyalty and submission is to our Lord Jesus Christ. Because our citizenship is in heaven, we have a perspective from which to evaluate our earthly citizenship. We can celebrate when we reflect on God's goodness, and grieve and confess our sins to God our Father, Son and Holy Spirit when we fall short. We plead the mercy of Christ Jesus because we are forgiven by His blood and share in His resurrection!

We are free. We are new creatures and can now seek "*... to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God .*" (Micah 6:8).

I have heard Muslims and others say that our heavenly citizenship is what we experience after death. There is no doubt this is part of what it means to be a citizen of heaven. But, from a biblical perspective, heavenly citizenship isn't only about the afterlife. It's also about how we live and love our neighbors here on Earth as we know from the prayer the Lord has taught us, "*Your kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.*" (Matthew 6:10). Our loyalty to heaven's Lord is something we live out right now, each day, in real, earthly time. In everything we do, we seek to love God and our neighbors and advance Christ's kingdom on Earth.

God's will is accomplished on Earth by those who are citizens of heaven—those whose allegiance is to the Lord of lords. It's done by you and me as we live out our heavenly citizenship, reaching, teaching, living and loving our neighbors right here and right now on

Earth. Our heavenly citizenship counts now and forever because of our faith in the righteousness of Christ our heavenly king, who is Risen indeed, Hallelujah. Amen and amen!

"Happy and Proud"

{Smiles & happy faces of some of our new citizen neighbors.}



Your support & prayers help DOW continue to bring the Gospel of Peace & Comfort of the Crucified and Risen Christ to our Muslim Neighbors in Dallas, Texas!

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