

Philippians 3:20-21

- I. We belong to a commonwealth that is hidden.
  - A. A community under the rule of a king who is real, but hidden.
  - B. A political community: but one that cannot be seen from outside. (Colossians 3:1)
  - C. Lives that are hidden from full view. (Colossians 3:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:19)
  - D. A political community: not the mere servant of some earthly purpose.
  - E. And yet, we are the very best servants of the world.
  
- II. We belong to a commonwealth that lives by different rules.
  - A. Philippi: a *colonia* of Rome
  - B. To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to live differently.
  - C. Our way of life does not flow from this world, but from the coming kingdom. (1 Corinthians 5:9-13)
  - D. We stand apart, and therefore we can speak to the world of what life ought to be.
    - i. Sophie Schöll and the White Rose movement
    - ii. Irena Sendlerowa
    - iii. the monks of Antioch
  - E. We are resident aliens, exiles (1 Peter. 1:1; 2:11)
  - F. We are free and independent, and at the same time peaceable. (1 Peter 2:13, 16)
  
- III. We belong to a commonwealth of hope.
  - A. Liu Zhenying – imprisoned, beaten, tortured, for the gospel in China
  - B. Our hope is not bound up in this world, but in the coming of our Lord (Habakkuk 3:17-19; Psalm 46:2-3; Isaiah 49:4)
  - C. And we do not attempt to control the fate of the world, but only obey our king
  - D. Our relationship to the world has changed, our way of life has changed, our hope has changed. (*Letter to Diognetus*, late AD 100s)
  - E. We await him. (1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26)