

**Philippians –  
Above the Circumstances!**

**Phil 3:15-21  
*Heaven's Expatriates***

# Above the Circumstances!

Phil 3:15-21

*Mature Christ-followers living above the circumstances as heaven's expatriates!*

## Exposition

- **Vs. 15,16 Mature Christ-followers**
  - **To the extent that we are mature...**
    - Spiritual maturity is a normal, realistic and obtainable state for each of us – Eph 4:13,16
    - Spiritual maturity is not to be a long, drawn-out process – Heb 5:11-14

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## Exposition

### ■ Vs. 15,16 Mature Christ-followers

- To the extent that we are mature...
- **Spiritual maturity** – revealed in attitude and mindset
  - Phil 2:5 = 'attitude;' 3:19 = 'mind set on...'
  - Maturity involves a transformation of our attitudes and values leading to a transformation of way of living

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## Exposition

### ■ Vs. 15,16 Mature Christ-followers

- To the extent that we are mature...
- **Spiritual maturity** – revealed in attitude and mindset
- **Becoming who we are**
  - Spiritual development = living up to and living out what God has 're-birthered' within us.  
II Peter 1:4 – 'partakers of the divine nature'
  - God's commands: *vigorous exhortations to do what the child of God already and most deeply desires*

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- Vs. 15,16 Mature Christ-followers
- Vs. 17-21 The Pattern: Heaven's Expatriates
  - The imprint of Heaven
    - example = 'typos' i.e. the imprint left behind when something is struck. (see Jn 20:25 – 'nail marks')
    - Following the pattern: being marked/imprinted by Jesus

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- Vs. 17-21 The Pattern: Heaven's Expatriates
  - The imprint of Heaven
  - Both imitating and being imitated
    - We are influenced by others and are influenced by others whether we want it or not.
    - What's the imprint in the 'soft wood' of life – yours and others'?

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## Exposition

- Vs. 15,16 Mature Christ-followers
  - Vs. 17-21 The Pattern: Heaven's Expatriates
    - The imprint of Heaven
    - Both imitating and being imitated
    - Wrong and right distinguishing characteristic
      - mind set on earthly things
      - citizenship in heaven
- “a colony of heaven's citizens”

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## Application:

*Are you an expatriate or an immigrant?*

- **Expatriate**

a person who takes up temporary residence in a country that is not their own

- **Immigrant**

a person who settles down to live permanently in a country that becomes their own