

VI. Laws of Divine Establishment and the Royal Family Honor Code: Politeuma of Philippi

Proof of Roman citizenship:

1. New citizens received a *diploma civitas Romanae*: The Document of Roman Citizenship which conferred the privileges of citizenship, i.e., *politeuma*.
2. Next, their names were recorded on one of the 35 tribal lists at Rome as well as the local municipal register.
3. Succeeding generations of a citizen's family possessed a *professio*: a registration of birth which recorded their status.
4. The toga was the official dress of the Roman citizen although it was worn only on special occasions. Non-Romans could not wear the toga.
5. Papers which validated a person's citizenship were kept in the family archives and were not usually carried on one's person.
6. Consequently, the verbal claim of Roman citizenship was accepted at face value.
7. The penalty for falsifying documents or making false claims of citizenship was exceedingly stiff.
8. *Epictetus's Dissertations* and *Suetonius's Life of Claudius* indicate that suspects caught falsely claiming Roman citizenship were put to death.
9. Consequently, when a prisoner claimed Roman citizenship, it was generally accepted as fact since the validity of the claim would come to light in the legal process.

All in the Philippian church were well aware of the importance of Roman citizenship and the advantages of their *politeuma*.

Paul commands them in:

Philippians 1:27 - conduct themselves as citizens, worthy of the gospel of Christ.

This is a challenge for them to look on their spiritual citizenship as superior to all religions just as Roman citizenship is superior to all other cultures.

In other words, Paul is commanding the believers in Philippi to think as aristocrats who are citizens of a heavenly community with *politeuma* privileges.

A corrected translation of verse 27 is informative here:

Philippians 1:27 - Conduct yourselves as heavenly citizens, worthy of the gospel of Christ, in order that whether I come to Philippi or remain absent, I will hear that you are standing fast in one Spirit and one soul, cooperating in the conflict for the faith of the gospel.

In this verse we see cause and effect. Paul commands the Philippian believers to function under their heavenly *politeuma*:

“Conduct yourselves as citizens [politeuo], worthy of the gospel of Christ, ...” The cause is unity of status: All function under the same *politeuma* privileges.

The result of such a lifestyle produces the following effects:

1. They will “*stand fast*” [*steko*] before the exigencies of the Angelic Conflict.

This result is unity of purpose: All have the same problem-solving devices available for defense against outside adversity.

2. Their defense of truth is “*in one Spirit*” [*pneuma*]. The filling of the Holy Spirit is the on/off switch for the divine power system in which the plan of God is revealed through GAP.

This result shows unity of plan: All have the same assets necessary to learn the plan of God.

3. “*In one soul*” [*psuche*], indicates the attainment of maximum doctrine flowing in their streams of consciousness.

This result shows unity of thought: All had advanced to spiritual adulthood because of their submission to Paul’s teaching authority.

4. “*Cooperating in the conflict*” [*sunathleo*], signifies the body of Christ functioning as one unit in application of doctrine.

This result shows unity of execution: All had spiritual gifts which enabled the church to serve God in all ambassadorial assignments.