

Humility in Real Life

How Timothy and Epaphroditus Model Christ-like Humility

Philippians 2:19-30

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send *Timothy* to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you *Epaphroditus* my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me. (ESV)

Show Christ-like _____ for each other. (20-21; 26; 28)

Be Christ-like _____ of each other. (19; 22-23; 25; 30)

Prove Christ-like _____ to each other. (22; 25; 27; 30)

Humility in Real Life

May 24, 2020

Open: If you were writing a character reference for someone, what sorts of things would be important to consider and include?

Read: Philippians 2:19-30

1. How is Timothy (vv. 19-22) an example of Christ-like humility as Paul described in 2:1-11? Paul mentions that he had “no one like” Timothy (v. 20). Why are people like Timothy rare? What may have helped Timothy develop such a heart?
2. Timothy is said to have a “genuine concern” for others (v. 20). What’s the difference between genuine concern for others (which is good) and worry (which is wrong)? Share a time when someone in the church demonstrated a genuine concern for you. What are some practical ways we can show others we sincerely care about them?
3. Paul also speaks very highly of Epaphroditus (vv. 25-30). What caused Paul to esteem him so highly? How does Epaphroditus’ example fit with what Paul has been encouraging in this letter?
4. How did Paul encourage the Philippians to receive Epaphroditus? Why? What does this say about how we should receive Christian workers among us? What happens in the church when we honor others in this way?
5. Timothy is said to have “proven” his worth (v. 22), something that would also likely be true of Epaphroditus. How did each of these men prove their worth? What are some ways that we might prove our “worth” or faithfulness to the cause of Christ?
6. One of the main problems in the Philippian church was a growing lack of unity. What threats to church unity do you perceive might be present in our current culture? How would emulating the character of both Timothy and Epaphroditus help overcome a lack of unity in the church?

Apply: What’s one way that you intend to follow in Timothy and Epaphroditus’ example?

Pray: Ask God to help us all to follow Timothy and Epaphroditus’ Christ-like example of sacrificially and steadfastly caring about and serving each other.

Philippians 2:19-30

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me. (ESV)