

Living As God's Children

Philippians 2:19-30

Paul's challenge to serve the Lord through living as God's children was emphasized in this part of the letter to the Philippi church. Paul will be sending two men who are mature in the faith who will model to the Philippians what living in unity for the gospel truly looks like.

1. Gospel Centred Concern For Others vs. 19-23

Once the outcome of Paul's trial is complete, Paul will be sending Timothy to the Philippian church to help model the teachings from this letter. Timothy has faced conflict, suffering, and disunity, but has proven to others that he not only perseveres, but remains focused on the gospel by building up other believers through showing genuine concern for their welfare.

Conflict, disunity, and suffering will take place in this world. However, if we choose to persevere by remaining faithful to gospel ministry through the building up other believers, the church will live in unity.

Questions:

- What are some practical ways we can show others that we sincerely care for them; loving them as God's child?
- What are the fruits of someone that isn't like minded with Jesus (Philippians 2:5), and does not sincerely care for others? (v.21)
- Paul mentions that Timothy has proved himself in how he lives his life for the gospel (vs. 22). What are the necessary qualities a person would need to model to reveal to others that they have proved themselves?
- In what ways have you proved to be a reliable servant of God?

2. Honouring Christ is More Important Than Accomplishing a Task vs. 25-30

Although Epaphroditus' mission from the Philippian church was to care for the needs of Paul while he was in prison, he was unable to complete that mission as he almost died from a horrible illness. However, Paul emphasizes that accomplishing a task should not be of greatest importance, but to honour Christ in every situation one faces.

Often the view is that failure is when a task is not accomplished. However, we need to remember "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." (Proverbs 16:9). Instead, failure is seen when a person chooses to not honour Christ.

Questions:

- Why did Paul tell the Philippian church to hold Epaphroditus, and such men in high esteem?
- How can you be a model of humility and service to other Christians this week?
- This week, how can you look out for the interests of the Lord rather than your own interests?