

UNITE

Philippians 2.19-30

Last week we looked at the model of Christ and what it took for him to dwell with man. We concluded that for us to have the same attitude as Christ, for us to “move in” and live among people, we must become servants.

⁵ **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:**

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,*

⁷ *but **made himself nothing,**
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and **became obedient** to death –
even death on a cross! Philippians 2.5-8*

Is there a pattern for servanthood in the context of the Christian faith? Being a person is a matter of birth, but being a servant that impacts is a matter of choice. In Philippians 2.19-30, Paul gives us two examples of servants in Timothy and Epaphroditus, from whom we are able to learn a great deal.

*I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy**... **I have no one else like him,***

*But I think it is necessary to send back to you **Epaphroditus**... **honor men like him.***

Here are Five Values God looks for in the life of a real servant.

1. We Need To Take a Genuine Interest in Others

²⁰ *I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.*

2. We Need To Be Consistent

²² *But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.*

3. We Need To Be Able To Work with Others for a Common Purpose

²⁵ *But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.*

4. We Need a Strong Sense of Commitment

²⁵ *But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him.*

5. We Need To Be Courageous

²⁹ *Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and **honor men like him**, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.*

¹ *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12.1-2*

³⁵ *For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8.35-37*