

JOY UNEXPECTED

PHILIPPIANS

LIFE ILLUSTRATED

Philippians 2:17-30



The Command

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“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ ...”

(1:27, ESV)

Four Illustrations

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- Jesus, Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus.

Philippians 2:5-8

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (ESV)

Illustrations

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- Each shows the joy of unity, the necessity of humility, and how to demonstrate true compassion and concern for others.

Philippians 2:17-22

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“Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy’s proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it ...”

Philippians 2:23-29

“will go with me, and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. 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, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 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. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So ...”

Philippians 2:29-30

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“receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.” (ESV)

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THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL

“Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all” (17)



1 Corinthians 11:1

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“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

(ESV)

(cf. 1 Cor 4:16; 2 Tim 1:13; 2 Thes 3:9, etc.)

Three Characteristics of Paul

1. His Humility

- *“Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering (spendō) upon the sacrificial offering of your faith” (2:17, ESV)*

- A potent image of what is often called a “libation” (a technical term for a certain part of a sacrificial offering)

Three Characteristics of Paul

1. His humility

2. His compassion

- He is willing to sacrifice for the sake of others
 - He is willing to send Epaphroditus to them immediately and Timothy soon.

Characteristics of Paul

1. His humility
2. His compassion
3. His rejoicing

- *“I am glad and rejoice with all of you”*

(2:17, ESV)

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THE EXAMPLE OF TIMOTHY

“For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare ... You know Timothy’s proven worth ... he has served with me in the gospel” (20-22)



Five Characteristics of Timothy

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1. He was like-minded

- *“I have no one like him” (isopsychos).* (2:20, ESV)
 - Literally, no one of equal soul.
- *“Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”* (2:2, ESV)

Five Characteristics of Timothy

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1. He was like-minded

2. He demonstrated concern for others

- He is *“genuinely concerned for your welfare”* (20)

- Three significant concepts

- He cared (*merimnaō*)—displaying great anxiety, concern, or care

- His care was genuine (*gnēsiōs*)—sincere, genuine

- He cared for all—the phrase translated “welfare” is literally—all the things regarding all of you

Five Characteristics of Timothy

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1. He was like-minded

2. He demonstrated concern for others

3. He was not selfish

- *“For they all seek their own interests”* (2:21, ESV)

- *“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* (2:4, ESV)

Five Characteristics of Timothy

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1. He was like-minded
2. He demonstrated concern for others
3. He was not selfish
4. He manifested Jesus
 - *“For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”*
(2:21, ESV)
 - *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”*
(2:5, ESV)

Five Characteristics of Timothy

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1. He was like-minded
2. He demonstrated concern for others
3. He was not selfish
4. He manifested Jesus
5. He demonstrated the ability to work with others as a servant
 - *“You know Timothy’s proven worth”* (*dokimē*) (2:22, ESV)
 - Literally—to prove genuine, to put to the test, examine thoroughly

Timothy and the Philippians

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- He had contact with them on at least 4 occasions:
 - At the starting of the church in Philippi (Acts 16:12-40)
 - When he was sent from Corinth to Athens to Thessalonica (Acts 18:5; 1 Thess 3:1-2)
 - Twice during the 3rd missionary journey (Acts 19:22; 20:3-6)

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THE EXAMPLE OF EPAPHRODITUS

"... my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger ... For he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill"

(25-26)



Characteristics of Epaphroditus

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1. He is called a brother (*adelphoi*)

Characteristics of Epaphroditus

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1. He is called a brother
2. He is called a fellow worker (*synergos*)
3. He is called a fellow soldier (*systratiōtēs*)

Characteristics of Epaphroditus

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1. He is called a brother
2. He is called a fellow worker
3. He is called a fellow soldier
4. He is called a messenger (*apostolos*)

Characteristics of Epaphroditus

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1. He is called a brother
2. He is called a fellow worker
3. He is called a fellow soldier
4. He is called a messenger
5. He is called a minister (*leitourgos*)
 - From **which we get our word "liturgy"**
 - Used of an official and sacred service, or the one performing an official or sacred service. Minister, one performing a special service.

Characteristics of Epaphroditus

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6. He was genuinely concerned for them

- *"For he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill."* (2:26, ESV)

Two Other Qualities

6. He was genuinely concerned for them

7. He was willing to die for the work of Christ

- *“So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life ...”*

(2:29-30, ESV)

- **“Risking his life”** (*paraboleumai*)—willingly exposed to danger for a greater good.

Christian Credentials

- They demonstrate concern and compassion for others (especially other Christians)
- They get along well with others and demonstrate the ability to work side-by-side
- They are not selfish, but self-sacrificing
- They work hard and tirelessly for Christ
- They are respected by others
- They are willing to take risks for the gospel
- They manifest Jesus in all they do

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LIFE ILLUSTRATED

What does a life worthy of the gospel look like? It is a self-sacrificing, others looking, and life risking life.



Next Steps

- I am thankful for the examples of Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus.
- I will demonstrate genuine concern and compassion for others.
- I will turn from living a life focused on myself to a life more focused on Christ and others.
- I will honor and give my best to those who are examples in the Christian faith.