



*I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare.
All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus
Christ.*

Philippians 2:20-21



Get to Know You: If you were to write your 'life resume', what is something you do faithfully that few people ever notice (e.g., packing lunches, fixing things, praying for others)?

1. **Read Philippians 2:19–24.** Paul says, “*I have no one else like Timothy.*” What set Timothy apart from others? How can we cultivate that same selfless care in our relationships? Paul laments that “all the others care only for themselves.” Why do you think self-interest is such a strong pull, even among believers?
2. In verse 22, Paul says Timothy “has proved himself.”—this speaks to Paul’s confidence in Timothy’s character. **Read Proverbs 22:1.** What are some “good name” (reputation) qualities that you value in people? While many people chase recognition these days in highly edited formats, how can we strive to keep our focus on building up our character rather than our status? What is God using to shape your character behind the scenes right now?
3. **Read Philippians 2:25–30.** Epaphroditus risked his life to serve Paul and the church. What do we learn about sacrificial service from his example? Note: The Greek word *paraboleuomai* means “to gamble one’s life”. Where might God be asking you to take a “risky” (sacrificial) step of obedience?

4. When we think about “sacrificial service” within the church, both Paul and Epaphroditus set examples for us to follow. Paul tells the church to “honour people like him.” Why is it important to celebrate behind-the-scenes servants in the church?
5. **Read John 15:9-13.** Jesus speaks of the love of God. How did God demonstrate His love towards us? What role did Jesus play? What link do you see between love and joy? What are some ways in which you follow the example of Jesus in “laying down your life” to serve others?
6. **Reflect** on the above passage: Do you think it is realistic to feel joy when you serve even if it goes unnoticed or unrewarded? Circle back and **read Philippians 2:5**. This alerts us to the key to being able to have a good attitude despite being overlooked or underappreciated. What is it? How do we practically develop “the mind of Christ” in our daily lives?
7. **Read Matthew 6:1–4.** What does Jesus teach about doing good deeds “in secret”? Why do you think anonymity is something God values?

Engage: Paul has very publicly acknowledged and thanked people in his letters. Why is it important not to take for granted the things people around us do to serve others? While we shouldn’t do things just for recognition, it is encouraging when people notice and express appreciation. This week, make an intentional effort to notice and express gratitude for big and little things in your interactions with people this week (not just in the church, but at work, the café, home, etc!)

