

“Case Studies In Caring”
Philippians 2:19-30
Sermon Series: “Joy Invincible”

Introduction:

Kent Hughes writes, “The Apostle Paul’s brief references to Timothy and then Epaphroditus here in Philippians are not casual but rather are meant to capture our attention and top off Paul’s train of thought that began in 1:27 with the charge, “Only let your manner of life [as citizens of the kingdom] be worthy of the gospel of Christ.”

Paul’s thought goes like this: In 1:27-30 he instructs the Philippians on how to live lives worthy of the gospel in relation to the surrounding pagan world—namely, by “standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” (v. 27). In doing this Paul tells them not to be “frightened in anything” (v. 28) and that it has been granted them to “not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake” (v. 29). This is the face and disposition with which the Philippians are to live in this world.

Next, in 2:1-4, Paul tells the Philippians how to live lives worthy of the gospel within the fellowship of the church. Very specifically, they were to treat each other with selfless humility: “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (vv. 3, 4).

Paul viewed all of this as so vital that in 2:5-11 he reached for the ultimate example of Christ, saying “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,” and used the most exalted language to describe Christ’s astonishing self-humiliation and super-exaltation (vv. 6-11).

Then, in verses 12-18, on the basis of Christ’s example Paul again refocused his call for the church to walk worthy of the gospel of Christ: “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (vv. 12, 13). If the church does this, its people will shine as lights amidst a crooked and twisted generation as they hold fast to the gospel. This will be cause for multiple and mutual rejoicings!

Now in verses 19-30 Paul gives flesh-and-blood examples of the selfless conduct to which he is calling the Philippian church. Here are men who live lives “worthy of the gospel of Christ” (1:27).”

Warren Wiersbe writes, “In this paragraph, Paul is still discussing the submissive mind. He has given us a *description* of the submissive mind in the example of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:1-11). He has explained the *dynamics* of the submissive mind in his own experience (Phil. 2:12-18). Now he introduces us to two of his helpers in the ministry, Timothy and Epaphroditus, and he does this for a reason. He knows that his readers will

be prone to say, “It is impossible for us to follow such examples as Christ and Paul! After all, Jesus is the very Son of God, and Paul is a chosen apostle who has had great spiritual experiences!” For this reason, Paul introduces us to two “ordinary saints,” men who were not apostles or spectacular miracle workers. He wants us to know that the submissive mind is not a luxury enjoyed by a chosen few; it is a necessity for Christian joy, and an opportunity for *all* believers.”

1. The heart of caring for one another is mutual concern that rises out of who we are in Christ (v.19-30).

-1 Corinthians 12:25-26

-If I don't, who will?

2. The root of carry for one another is living for Jesus because to live for Jesus is to live for others also (v.20-21).

-Contrast v.21 with 1:21-24

3. The preparation for caring for one another is discipleship (v.22).

A. Accountability

B. Relationship

C. Modeling

D. Hands on experience

E. Apprenticeship

F. Rooted in the gospel

-The purpose of discipleship is not head knowledge but inside transformation that produces outward fruitfulness.

-Who are you discipling and who are you being disciplined by? (Organic)

4. The cost of caring for one another is sacrifice (v.26-30).

5. The proper response to being cared for by another is honor (v.29).