



Brown CG Discussion Guide

To Be Content: In Our Example Philippians 2:19-30 – October 11, 2020

1. Starter Context:

Our previous studies of Philippians has focused on core foundational truths to our Christian life, with last week including our salvation, attitudes as Christians and unity derived from not grumbling or complaining. This week we will review the topic of service, care, encouragement and support of fellow Christians in the Church.

What role do each of us have in serving the church? How far have we gone in caring, encouraging and developing others in the church? Have we freely given of our time, energy and efforts in support of others in our church? Who can we look to as our example of how to act and what to do? Have we “sold out” to serve others and the church or ourselves?

2. Discussion of Scripture:

Philippians 2:19-30: Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵ 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, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Context and Explanation:

This passage is an interesting look into the logistics of the early church ministry and has some powerful application points for Christians today. The core theme of this passage surrounds the idea that churches equip their members to be sent out for the sake of the Gospel. Paul goes to great lengths to describe the care and love that he sends Timothy and Epaphroditus, and we can now see the lasting impact that their efforts made in growing the church. These passages force us to focus on personal applications that include serving, growth as Christian believers,

building up one another, working with the church leadership in an overall plan and answering calls from the Lord.

3. Group Discussion:

1. In verses 19-24, why did Paul send Timothy to the Philippians? Why were letters not enough?
2. What was it that gave Paul such confidence in Timothy and Epaphroditus and that he could count on them?
3. Can you think of someone at church or your life that you regarded in high regard? What was that regard based on?
4. Why would the church commission their best members to leave and travel to other locations? Were they not concerned for the home church they left?
5. What are the primary driving characteristics of Timothy and Epaphroditus that separated them in Paul's mind as the right people to care, mentor and develop the church members at Philippi? What can we learn from them in application for us to our own CG and church?
6. Let's now look at the main characteristics of Timothy and Epaphroditus emphasized in these verses to build others up and development:
 - a. Genuinely concerned for you
 - b. Seek the best interests for Jesus Christ, not self
 - c. Proven hard worker
 - d. Served for the gospel
 - e. Worker, Soldier, Minister, Messenger
 - f. Has a longing or deep desire to have relationships with other Christians
 - g. People rejoice in seeing them and their presence
 - h. People honor them and their actions
 - i. Risk it all to serve Jesus
7. How can we best learn and take to heart these characteristics and make them our own?

4. Responding in Prayer:

- Pray for our community to have interactions with the Gospel this week. Pray that our church members would use new or differing schedules as a way to uniquely impact those around them.
- Pray for our church leadership. Pray that they would use their giftings well this week and that they would keep the Holy Spirit at the forefront of their minds when making decisions. Pray that our congregation would support them and encourage them well this week.
- Pray for the application of the sermon this week in our church. Pray that individuals would be convicted to challenge the way that they live for the sake of the Gospel. Pray that we would encourage and build up one another more effectively going forward!

Mission / Vision / Values of Henderson Hills Baptist Church

Our Mission:

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

Our Vision:

Our vision is to become a diverse family of surrendered and transformed people who passionately love God and others. We endeavor to be a body that is overcome by the reality that this life is not about us, but all about the glory of God. We want to be transfixed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and compelled by His heart for our world. We strive to be seed-throwers and fire-starters, hope-announcers and grace-givers, risk-takers and constant-reformers, lifelong-learners and sold-out doers. We desire to be a people who gladly give our lives to free the captive, strengthen the weak, embrace the outcast, and seek out the lost. Because Scripture is our authority, we strive to be a family that serves together, studies the Word together, plays together, worships together, and lives life together. By God's grace our world will be changed because we are here.

Our Values:

1. Glorifying God:

We value the passionate pursuit of knowing God and walking with Him.

2. Submitting to the Authority of Scripture:

We value the sufficiency of Scripture in every aspect of our lives.

3. Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

We value sharing the Gospel and making disciples.

4. Serving with a Kingdom Perspective:

We value living our lives focused upon what will matter most for eternity.

5. Cherishing the Local Church:

We value the essential role of the church in the sanctification of the believer and salvation of the nations.

6. Doing Life Together in a Christ-Centered Community:

We value that God uniquely uses personal relationships to sanctify and sharpen believers.