

**Philippians 2:19-30**  
A Cooperative Calling

*A ministry team ...*

- I. A Common Concern
  - A. Gospel
  - B. Good of the People
- II. A Challenging Call
  - A. Paul
  - B. Timothy
  - C. Epaphroditus
- III. A Caring Community
  - A. Camaraderie
  - B. Care

*... that works.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What did Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus work together to do?
2. What lets us know that the people of the church at Philippi worked well together?
3. Why does Paul want Timothy to be with the church in Philippi?
4. Why was everyone concerned about Epaphroditus?
5. What will you do today to encourage someone in the church?

**Sacrificial Fellowship**

Church workers participate in a cooperative calling. In our text three names are mentioned two that are quite familiar to us. We know Paul and Timothy and then there is Epaphroditus. They were from different backgrounds. Paul was a devout Jew. Timothy was half Greek, half Jew. Epaphroditus, though I can't seem to find anything definitive about his origin (there is some homework for you), I am assuming was a gentile. Their common denominator was Jesus and their common goal was to minister His Gospel. All three were sinners saved by grace, and interestingly all three are known to have had some marked physical infirmity – in other words they were not perfect – yet God used them. The three worked together in different capacities, but they were not alone. Of course they depended on God to enable them to do what they were called to do. But they also leaned heavily on the people of the churches to support, encourage and co-labor with them in their Kingdom efforts. Ministry requires sacrifice. The three men mentioned are examples of that as were the people of the church at Philippi. It was a mutual ministry that required them to be self-sacrificing in order for their church-work to go well. They serve as examples for us to follow. May God grant us the grace to serve well and that our leaders and our congregation would be marked by sacrificial ministry to the glory of God and the mutual edification of each other as we strive together for the Kingdom.