

What does a Christ-like person look like?

9 October 2011

Philippians 2:19-30

I. The Plan

- A. Paul will send Epaphroditus home immediately
- B. Paul will send Timothy to Philippi at some point later
- C. Why here? (see Philippians 2:1-11)

II. Christ-like obedience and love for others: Timothy

- A. Timothy is at the disposal of the gospel. (19)
- B. Timothy's heart mirrors that of the one who sent him. (20a)
- C. Timothy has a godly anxiety for the interests of others. (20b-21; see also Matthew 6:25, 27-28, 31, 34; Philippians 2:1-4; 4:6; 1 Corinthians 12:25)
- D. Timothy is a man of proven character. (22; see also 1 Timothy 4:12)

III. Christ-like obedience and love for others: Epaphroditus

- A. Epaphroditus is a brother. (25)
- B. Epaphroditus is a worker.
- C. Epaphroditus is a soldier.
- D. Epaphroditus puts the well-being of his brothers above his own. (26-28)
- E. Epaphroditus deserves more honor than he's been getting. (29-30)

IV. But we're not pastors!

- A. Paul has held up two examples of Christ-like character, love, and obedience to God
- B. But how do these examples apply to most of us?
- C. The care of believers is everyone's task
- D. Our daily work must be done for the Lord
 - i. humble toward everyone!
 - ii. put the well-being of coworkers, clients, and bosses before your own
 - iii. not destroyed when you don't get the honor (or pay) you deserve
 - iv. strive for deep quality in your work
 - v. use your time well
 - vi. not living and dying by your work (see Colossians 3:3-4)
 - vii. not striving for greatness in your work

V. An impossible task?

- A. Is it impossible to genuinely put others before yourself?
- B. We have salvation because Jesus put us ahead of himself
- C. "His banner over me is love." (Song of Solomon 2:4)