

Are YOU an Example or a Sample?
Philippians 2:19-30

Philippians 2:19-21

What Paul is saying to the Christians in Rome about the church in Philippi, was not a concern to them

There were many Christians in Rome, Paul greeted **26 of them by name** (Rom 16)
Paul could not find one person among them to go to Philippi - So, he sent Timothy

Paul then lists several traits of Timothy which are commendable

Character that can be modeled and followed!!!

Isn't this the goal of discipleship??? To spiritually reproduce

Whatever Paul & Timothy do – Jesus is involved

Philippians 2:22-24 - Paul gave Timothy instruction mixed with on-the-job training.

- Experience without teaching leads to discouragement
- Teaching without experience leads to ineffectiveness

How to ruin good teaching:

1. Be lazy – slothful
2. Have wrong goals
3. Dabble in many things never committing to anything

Paul transitions here - He now speaks of Epaphroditus. We don't know about his background, or his family. We don't know his role in the Philippi church. We do know from his name he came out of a pagan background –

Greek – “APHODITE” Roman – “VENUS” - goddess of love

WHAT WE DO KNOW ... He has a servants heart, He has courage – the Roman response could be dangerous and He is faithful even to the point of death

THAT's being an Example!

Let's look a little closer at Paul's description of this man ...

1. *my brother*, The love and blood of Jesus
2. *co-worker and* Have the Task (*Romans 16*)
3. *fellow soldier*, One who **DEFENDS** - Philemon 1 – **it's a Honored title Warrior is equal to king - the Greek word is *stratios* we get our word strategist –**

This man sacrifices himself with no thought of EARTHLY reward
What a tragedy it would be to go through life and NOT be a blessing to others

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