



**“Stationed to Serve”**  
**Philippians 2:25-30**  
**The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians**

Philippians 2:25-30 – “I have thought it necessary to send you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 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. I am more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.”

Intro: What is service?

Definition: The action of helping or doing work for someone.

**Philippians 2:25 – “I have thought it necessary to send you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need,”**

1.) True service is not about your effort, it’s about your obedience.

“Do we think we need to be more productive than Jesus?”

-Hosanna Wong

“We have to ask not just if it is good, but is it healthy?”

-Wayne Cordeiro

“You need to bring your best, but you can’t control the outcome...Your outcome will always be worse than His outcome.”

-Curt Harlow

“All of humanity’s problems stem from man’s inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

-Blaise Pascal

**Philippians 2:26 – “for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.”**

**Philippians 2:27 – “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.”**

2.) True service doesn’t guarantee a good outcome.

Colossians 3:23 – “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”

**Philippians 2:28 – “I am more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.”**

“Everything costs.” -Matt Trask

Philippians 2:4 – “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

3.) True service puts others first.

John 13:15 – “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.”

**Philippians 2:29-30 – “So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.”**

4.) True service should be recognized.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1.) What did you find new, helpful, or confusing about today’s message?
- 2.) How would you define “service” in your own words?
- 3.) Is it easy or difficult for you to serve others? Why?
  - 3a.) Is it easy or difficult for you to allow others to serve you? Why?
- 4.) Is your service to God more about doing things “for” God or doing things in obedience to God?
  - 4a.) Do you incorporate rest in your service to God? Why or why not?
- 5.) What specific ways do you feel God has called you to serve Him?