

OCF Small Groups: *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don't know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

Philippians 2: 19 -24

(Sunday, October 24)

1. When you are not able to take care of certain tasks, who do you count on or trust the most to make sure those tasks are done the way you want them accomplished?

2. Timothy was "genuinely concerned for" the Philippians' "welfare" (v. 20), not like others, who "seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ" (v. 21). These are parallel but contrasting statements.
 - a. What is the connection between looking after the interests of others (2:4) and looking after the interests of Jesus the Messiah (v. 21)?
 - b. What is the connection between the Philippians' "welfare" and the "interests . . . of Jesus Christ"? (Hint: the same parallel is found in Matt. 25:31–46.)

3.
 - a. It is interesting that Paul doesn't say "Timothy is a wonderful teacher" or even "Timothy is a very devout and holy man," but "Timothy will be genuinely concerned for your welfare" or care about you. The definition Paul seems to be adopting for a good pastor—and the implication is that he himself was like this—has more to do with sheer unselfish love than any other traits about the person. Genuine, unselfish love always requires unselfish sacrifice. What does it look like to demonstrate an unselfish love for God and others?
 - b. Jesus said that He came "not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:28) and taught His disciples to have the same attitude. When do you find it easiest to serve others? In what circumstances do you find it most difficult?

4.
 - a. The apostle Paul had many mission partners and emissaries. In one sense, Timothy was just one of many. But, in another sense, passages like 1 Corinthians 4:16–17 suggest that Timothy was unique. Looking at 1 Corinthians 4:16–17 and Philippians 2:19–24, what words does Paul use to commend Timothy? What words highlight the uniqueness of his relationship to Paul?
 - b. Have you known of a relationship like that of Paul and Timothy (v. 22)? What was it like?
 - c. Timothy followed Paul's example of service. Do you have a spiritual mentor, a "Paul," whom you learn from and serve with, and someone you mentor, like a "Timothy"? Explain.

5.
 - a. In what ways is OCF concerned about the welfare of others? What interests do people look out for most at OCF (vv. 20-21)?
 - b. What sort of involvement does OCF have with local mission organizations? How does OCF support missionaries?
 - c. What do you see as the areas in need of most improvement when it comes to Christian service?

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION Philippians 2: 20

For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank you for partnerships in the gospel. Thank you for the people that I have served with and the people I have served through OCF. Please continue to lead me to other areas of service and lead me to others I can serve and partner with. Give me strength and courage to keep looking after the interests of others and not just my own. In your name I pray, AMEN.