

WEEK SIX

Example of Timothy & Epaphroditus

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Timothy

- “One who honors God”
- Paul’s spiritual son & gospel partner
- Jewish mother, Greek father

Epaphroditus

- “Lovely one,” relating to Aphrodite
- Messenger of the Epistle
- Man of great honor

Acts 17:15

Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

2 Corinthians 2:12-13

Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, ¹³ I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia..

2 Timothy 4:11

Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

Philippians 2:19-21 ^{NIV}

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:22-24 NIV

But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

Timothy

Loved selflessly

“I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.”

Proved himself

“But you know that Timothy has proved himself...”

Apprenticed faithfully

“...because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”

Philippians 2:25-27 ^{NIV}

But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

Philippians 2:28-30 ^{NIV}

Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety.
²⁹ So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

Epaphroditus

Endured hardship

“For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.”

Risked his life

“Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him...”

Gained honor

“So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ”


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**How genuine is your concern for one another?
How joyous is your honoring of one another?**