

A Servants Heart
Sunday, February 3, 2019
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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are taken from the NKJV.

Matthew 20:27-28 “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

On our Proclamation Card

Philippians 2:5-7 “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant” (NASB)

We see that Jesus, who was Lord of all, emptied Himself and was willing to become a bondservant, a slave. We must imitate His attitude.

Paul penned a parallel passage in Galatians 5:13-14:

“For you were called to freedom, brethren: only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (NASB)

We are to serve one another in love. Many people talk about serving the Lord, but never serve their fellow believers. I do not know how much you can really serve the Lord if you are not willing to serve your fellow believers, because the Lord comes to us in the members of His body. Our attitude toward those members is really our attitude toward the Lord Himself.

Proclamation: Thank you, Lord, that You help me to love others. I proclaim that I serve my fellow believers as a way of serving the Lord. I shall consider others. Amen.

Two Men with a Servants Heart

Philippians 2:19-24

“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 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. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.” (NIV)

1. Timothy had genuine concern for the welfare of the Philippians. (19)

"Compassion is the sometimes, fatal capacity for feeling what it's like to live inside somebody else's skin. It's the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and

joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too." - Frederick Buechner (Wishful Thinking, Harper and Row Pub., New York, 1973).

2. Timothy had true humility. (21)

The definition of humility is found in the scripture.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (NIV)

What's sad is that apparently, Timothy was the only person who truly did this.

3. Timothy had proven character. (22)

Timothy didn't just talk the talk. He had walked the walk.

James 1:12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (NIV)

4. Timothy was devoted to service.

"Because as a son with his father, he has served with me in the work of the gospel."

Timothy was Paul's son in the faith. Children in those days were expected to serve their fathers faithfully, as a devoted member of the family.

The word "serve" here again gives the idea of being a slave. It is the same word that Paul uses of Jesus in Phil. 2:7.

Timothy is truly a devoted servant. He demonstrated genuine compassion, true humility, proven character, and devoted service, not only to Paul, but more importantly, to Christ. Which of these examples might describe me?

Epaphroditus Praised (vs 25-30)

"Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore, I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me." (NKJV)

1. A partner in the faith as my brother.
2. A partner in service as a fellow worker.

3. A partner in warfare as a fellow soldier.
4. A partner to the Philippians in mission and ministry.
5. A companionate friend.
6. A sacrificial servant.

Epaphroditus wasn't looking for kudos or recognition. He was a simple servant.

Questions to challenge us.

Do we have a true servant's heart? Would Christ get our vote?

Do we have genuine compassion, true humility, proven character, devoted service?

Are we a partner in faith, in service, in warfare, in mission, in ministry?

Are we a compassionate friend, a sacrificial servant?

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