

DISCUSSION GUIDE || October 8 & 9, 2025

REMEMBER

- In a culture obsessed with self-seeking status, Paul's vision for Christian living is **joyful partnership** that's shaped by **Christ's example of other-centered humility**.
- The **2 paragraphs** in 2.19-30 give **2 shout-outs** to **2 examples** of other-centered sacrificial service.
- We might be tempted to believe that Paul is this theological giant who only sits in a cell scribbling out dense theological work. But these passages (as well as dozens of others) give us a glimpse of a Christian leader who is **securely situated within a network of kingdom co-workers**. He loves them. They love him.
- The early church was a web of multi-ethnic, multi-national, multi-lingual, multi-generational **co-workers for the gospel**, each playing their different parts in joyful partnership. Timothy and Epaphroditus are just 2 examples...

READ Philippians 2.19-30

REFLECT

1. **What word, phrase, or idea** is most interesting or surprising to you from this passage?
Why?
2. How does the Christ poem in verses 6–11 **connect with these practical examples** of a **pastor** (Timothy) and Christian **servant** (Epaphroditus) helping the church any way he can?
3. **What is Paul celebrating here?** How does this compare or contrast with what our **culture**—Christian or otherwise—tends to celebrate in others?
4. Paul seems to celebrate **who** these men are above **what** they can do. This thought came toward the end of the message last Saturday—"Our being (who we are) should precede our doing. In other words, what we do should flow out of us as an authentic expression of who we are."
*What are your thoughts on **the relationship between "being and doing"**? How have you felt, seen, or experienced the healthy connection OR unhealthy disconnection of "being and doing" in yourself or others?*
5. Let's follow Paul's example—**who can you encourage** right here and now?
6. What can we **pause and pray** for in our lives, neighborhood, and world right now?