

# Life Group Homework

## **FINDING JOY IN CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP – PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30**

### **Getting Started:**

1. When you think through your closest friendships in your life, what characteristics were most responsible for drawing you into those relationships and making them as close as they were?
2. What percentage of your closest friendships in this life have been with non-Christians? What about professing Christians and/or mature and zealous Christians?

### **Digging In:**

1. When Paul speaks of Timothy having a genuine concern for the welfare of those in Philippi (vs. 20) how do you think Paul knew Timothy was genuine? What sort of things show genuine concern?
2. When Paul refers to those that are seeking their own interests and not those of Jesus Christ (vs. 21) how do you think he knew that they were self-seeking? What sort of things would make this selfishness noticeable?

3. Why do you think that Paul says in verse 21 that they are not seeking the interests of Jesus Christ rather than saying they are not seeking the interests of those in Philippi?
4. Describe what sort of working relationship Paul likely had with Timothy given his words in verse 22.
5. In verse 25 Paul uses the words brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier to describe Epaphroditus. Discuss each of these and describe what sort of relationship Paul is trying to convey by using that description.
6. Take the circumstances that Paul lays out in verses 25-30 concerning Epaphroditus and put it into a modern context here at Cornerstone. Discuss what emotions you might experience or struggle with if you had sent one of your group to minister to a missionary only to go through what Epaphroditus experienced.
7. Why should we give honor to those who step out and risk things for the gospel of Christ?

8. In what ways should this sort of honor be expressed? (See Romans 16:1-2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

**Living It Out:**

Are your friendships strongest where the commonality is your desire to advance the gospel or are there other areas that factor more strongly into forming friendships with others?