

May 1, 2016
Philippians 2:19-30

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

I. Introduction

Think about: Who has made a significant impact or difference in your life?

My hope and prayer for this message:

- 1.) it will help us appreciate those who have made a difference in our lives;
- 2.) That it will encourage us and teach us ways to make a difference in the lives of others.

II. The Quality of Timothy's Character

A. Timothy had a _____ spirit.

20] "I have no one else like him," (NIV)

20] "I have no one else of **kindred** spirit" (NASB)

B. Timothy had a genuine _____ for others.

20' "who takes a genuine **interest** in your welfare."

C. Timothy was a man with a _____ heart.

22"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.

Philippians 2:22

III. The Quality of Epaphroditus's Character

²⁵ 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. ²⁸ 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." Philippians 2:25-30

A. The Example of Epaphroditus was that he was willing to_____ everything to serve Christ.

IV. Conclusion and Application:

- Who has made a difference in your life?
(Give thanks to God for their lives.)
- In Whose life can you make a difference?
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POINTS TO PONDER
Week of May 1st to May 7th
Philippians 2:19-30

Open It

1. *When was the last time you gave a character reference for a friend?
2. If close friends were to talk about you behind your back, what would they say?

Explore It

3. Why did Paul plan to send Timothy to the Philippians? (2:19)
4. *What was Paul's opinion of Timothy? (2:20)
5. What was Timothy's relationship with the church at Philippi? (2:20)
6. *In Paul's view, why did Timothy stand out? (2:21-22)
7. When would Paul send Timothy to the Philippians? (2:23)
8. Why was Paul confident that he would revisit the believers at Philippi? (2:24)
9. Who was Epaphroditus? (2:25)
10. Why did the Philippians send Epaphroditus to Paul? (2:25)
11. How did Epaphroditus feel about his friends in Philippi? (2:26)

12. What happened to Epaphroditus? (2:26-27)

13. How did God spare Paul tremendous sorrow? (2:27)

14. How did Paul demonstrate his selflessness? (2:28)

15. *How were the Philippians told to welcome home Epaphroditus? (2:29-30)

16. Why were the Philippians told to honor their messenger? (2:30)

Get It

17. *Among your circle of Christian friends, for whom do you have the highest regard? Why?

18. Why could Paul count on Timothy and Epaphroditus?

19. What reputation do you have in your church?

20. *In what ways have you proved to be a reliable servant of God?

21. What risks are you willing to take on behalf of other Christians?

22. In what ways can you be God's "courier" to others?

Apply It

23. *How can you be a model of humility and service to other Christians this week?

24. This week, how can you look out for the interests of the Lord rather than your own interests?

