

Philippians 2:19-30

- ¹⁹ 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. 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. 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.

Philippians 2:19-30 (cont.)

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 honour 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.

Timothy...vs19-24

- No one else like him (One of a kind)
- Genuine interest in others (Other focussed)
- Not just his own interests (Selfless)
- Proved himself (Consistent)
- As a son with his father (Faithful)
- Has served with me (servant hearted)

Epaphroditis...vs25-30

- Fellow worker (Productive)
- And soldier (Disciplined)
- Longs for all of you (Caring)
- Distressed by your distress (Perceptive)
- Almost died working for the gospel (Committed)

“Honour people like him”

What does it mean to be honourable?

Honour is an abstract concept entailing a perceived quality of worthiness and respectability...

*Accordingly, individuals are assigned worth **based on the harmony of their actions with a specific code of honour...***



The Queen's honours

- KBE or DBE - Knight or Dame of the British Empire.
- OBE - Officer of the Order of the British Empire.
- MBE - Member of the Order of the British Empire.
 - For local achievements, in business, community or charity.
- CBE - Commander of the Order of the British Empire.
 - Most prestigious - awarded for prominent or leading roles at a national level.
- Other honours The George Medal, The Queen's Gallantry Medal, and the Royal Victorian Order (RVO).

The British empire

- Commendable attitudes and behaviors
 - According to the values of the kingdom
 - As determined by the 'sovereign'
 - And only relevant within that realm

Currency

- **Value is determined by realm**
- **Given worth by its transferrable commodity value within that realm**

Gold – precious metal, prized but scarce within the realm.

has great worth and can be exchanged for:

**food,
protection,
companionship,
affection**

Different realm – different currency

- **Currency less sophisticated, but much the same:**
 - Food,
 - protection,
 - companionship,
 - affection



Kingdom values

- *“...Honour people like these...”*
- Why? – Because they possess and demonstrate kingdom values.
- Who determines these honorable attitudes & behaviors?
- Who establishes the currency value?

Phil 2:5 “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus”

Culture shock

Dictionary definition:

“The feeling of disorientation experienced by someone when they are suddenly subjected to an unfamiliar culture, way of life, or set of attitudes”

Misplaced values

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Clash of codes

The wisdom of “this world” is different

- Knowledge loses value
- Pride becomes worthless
- Status has no recognition

1 Corinthians 3:19

‘For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”’

Matthew 6:19-20

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Honorable qualities are recognised

Sometimes about Knowledge

Often about Humility

Usually about about Courage

Mostly about Character

Always about Goodness

Because these reflect the currency of value within the kingdom



Christ our example

Matthew 20:28

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

What are you known for?

- At home
- wider family
- at work
- among friends



Rom 8:29 - “...conformed to the image of Christ”

Humility

Sacrifice

Other-focussed

Generous

Serving

Caring

Willing

Helpful

W Churchill – *“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference”*

Phil 2:1-5

- **Be likeminded**
- **Having the same love**
- **One in spirit & purpose**
- **No selfish ambition or vein conceit**
- **Consider other better than yourself**
- **Not only to your own interest, but also the interests of others**
- **Attitude the same as that of Christ**