

Small Group and Reflection Questions

Phil 2.19-30

February 11, 2013

1. This passage has three individual characters: Timothy, Epaphroditus and Paul. Reflect on their similarities and differences from the passage and other verses:
 - a. Timothy (Acts 16.1-3, 17.14; 1 Cor 4.17, 2 Tim 1.3-),
 - b. Epaphroditus (Phil 4.18),
 - c. Paul (Gal 1.13-14, Phil 3.4-6), (note: this last passage is the text for next week's sermon.)
2. Which of these three would you most expect to come to faith in Christ? If you reflect further, can you imagine scenarios and reasons why each would find Christ and his Gospel attractive and compelling? How would you share the gospel with each one?
3. Of the individual descriptive items that Paul gives about Timothy and Epaphroditus, which are the most intriguing or interesting to you? Which do you need from others? Which do you desire to see developed in yourself? Which do you need the Spirit's help to live out personally?
4. Paul's words about Epaphroditus' risking his life, introduce a topic to reflect on. What is our culture's view of risk? What is your personal view of it? Is risk positive, negative or neutral? What are the factors in modern suburban life that encourage and discourage risk? How does being called into relationship with God through Christ relate to risk? Consider running the topic of "risk" through a creation, fall, redemption, glory paradigm, e.g. Was there risk in the garden (Gen 1,2); what does our rebellion from God do to risk; how does redemption in Christ change our view of risk; will there be risk in heaven (if not risk, is there another word to replace it)?
5. How do Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus reflect some of the qualities of Christ that we see in Phil 2.5-11? How have they "given themselves" as Christ "gave himself?" What does it look like for us to give ourselves through the gospel (i.e. Not in emulation of Christ but empowered by him).
6. *Pray for your friends and neighbors who do not know Christ, i.e. people like Paul, Timothy or Epaphroditus before they came to Christ. Pray for yourselves that God would make you faithful and fruitful like these three after they came to know Christ.