

Joy Filled Life 5 “People that bring Joy” Philippians 2:19-30

Community Group Questions

1. What do you do to show others that you are concerned for them?
2. In what way are you serving?
3. What do you do to add value to the church?
4. How have you furthered the purposes of the church?
5. In what ways have you been a blessing to the people around you?

In the next section of verses Paul is reminding the church in Philippi about two people that because of who they are and what they have done in his life and the lives of others has brought joy. Today is Mother’s Day and I know many of you find Joy in the impact and legacy of your Mothers because of the character traits that your mom posses or possessed...but others of you may not have experienced that joy from a mom with good character traits... that does not mean that you can never experience joy from other people or never be a person that brings joy...I believe there are people around you that can bring you joy and you can be the person that brings joy to others...

Today in Philippians 2:19-30 we are going to learn the character traits that bring others joy.

People that bring joy...

Have a genuine concern Vrs 19-21 Paul probably met Timothy on his first missionary journey and he was a young man that traveled and ministered with Paul...Paul looked at Timothy as a spiritual son but an interesting fact is Paul attributes the strong faith Timothy to his upbringing by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice. (2 Tim 1:5). Timothy had the joy of having those two women build into his life and I can only image that had much to do with his general concern for others.

It is no secret that men and women are very different and I would venture to say women pay a little more attention to the feelings of others and can tend to be a bit more sensitive. So maybe the fact that Timothy learned about faith in the Lord Jesus from his mother and grandmother molded him into an exceptionally caring man.

Whether that character trait can be attributed to his upbringing or not we may never know but this we do know...when we are around people that have a genuine concern for other people it brings us joy.

How do we develop a genuine concern? This is tough because in some cases some might suggest if it is not there...it is not there.

-Pray that God gives you that concern

-Put yourself in situations in which you are around people that needs someone to be concerned. Youth Ministry Example

Our next point is found in verse 22 and it is...people that bring joy...

Are willing to serve Vrs 22

Paul experienced a deep sense of joy because he had timothy by his side "serving with him in the Gospel". Based on reading the letter to the Philippians we can sense at times Paul was discouraged...we also realize that he was in prison because he was preaching the message...I am sure Paul was lonely at times and felt like he was fighting an uphill battle...having Timothy by his side willing to serve brought him Joy...so much so he was hesitant to let him go which brings us to the next point...people that bring joy...

Add value vrs 23-24

How do we add value? That is simple...be willing to serve the way you are gifted to serve. Paul talks about this in 1st Corinthians 12...by reminding the believers they are one body to work together.

Many times we have gifts and abilities to be used for the Lord to benefit His church and would add great value but we decide not to volunteer or use our gifts.

Here is a question you can ask yourself...would the church be in worse shape if I was not here? Not in a sicko sinister way..."they will be sorry when I am gone"

I am not suggesting that if you do not serve you are not valuable to the body of Christ or this church...we love you and care that you are here and for some of you just being here is a huge step in your spiritual journey...but I am challenging you to ask yourself...how am I adding value to the body of Christ.

Albert Einstein said "Try not to be a person of success, try to be a person of value"

Timothy was so valuable to Paul that he was hesitant to let him go because he brought him so much joy. But on the other hand he knew that because of who Timothy was he would bring joy to the church in Philippi...he would be valuable to them.

But Timothy was not the only one that brought Joy to Paul's life... Epaphroditus did as well and in verses 25-30 we are going to find out how he did that as we find 3 more character traits of people that bring joy.

People that bring joy...

Care about God's purposes Vrs 25

We see here Paul is sending back Epaphroditus but look at what he says about him...

-*My Brother*-this is a title we give to our fellow Christians...brothers and sisters we say that because we are part of God's family and Paul says that about Epaphroditus because he wants to communicate that he cares about his fellow Christians and the church.

Do you care about your fellow Christians and the church? If your brothers and sisters in Christ are hurting or the church is hurting do you care enough to make a move and act. I am not saying do you care enough to say “someone has to do something” I am saying do you care enough to say “I am going to do something”?

When you do care enough it makes you a...

-Fellow Worker this is what Paul called Epaphroditus because that is what he was.

Are you a fellow worker? There are givers and takers and the givers are the ones that work...they give their time and efforts. There will always be seasons in life in which you have to be a taker...meaning there are times when you can't do much work and you may have valid reasons but I would venture to say that many times we become lazy or entitled and do not work.

When we work we become a...

-Fellow Soldiers-Paul called Epaphroditus this because they were fighting a battle together for the same purpose to spread the Gospel and meet the needs of their fellow Christians. It brought joy to Paul to know that someone was fighting the same battle

Are you fighting the good fight for the GOSPEL? Are you praying for people that don't know Jesus and seeking to lead them toward Jesus? If you are you bring joy to Christians all over the world.

The next point is found in verses 26-27...people that bring joy..

Do not want to burden others Vrs 26-27

Epaphroditus was sick and was upset that the believers in Philippi were worried about him. That is pretty interesting a sick person having concern for others rather than only focusing on their own needs. Normally when we are sick...we only focus on ourselves and

what we need...but Epaphroditus did not want the people to be burdened by his sickness or even the thought of him being sick.

How about you...are you the type of person that wants to suck everyone into your problems? Here is a test for you...when you talk to others do you always seem to end up talking about your problems or issues? I am not saying you should never bring up problems or issues but when it gets to the point that everyone you know either knows your problems or issues or knows that you have problems or issues and that is why they are avoiding you...you are not bringing joy you are becoming a burden.

What should we do with our burdens? *Psalm 55:22 "Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you"*

And finally people that bring joy...

Are a blessing Vrs 28-30 The bottom line was that Paul was blessed by the life of Epaphroditus and wanted to share that joy with the believers at Philippi by sending him back...He was a blessing.

Are you a blessing to others?

Imagine a church filled with people that desired to be a blessing to everyone around them...we can be that church by ***having a genuine concern for others, willingness to serve, adding value with that service, caring about God's purposes and not being a burden to those around us.***