

“BFF”

Philippians 2:19-30 - Pastor Bruce French

GETTING JOY

1. Joy comes through divine partnerships. Phil. 1:4-5
2. Joy comes through loving without walls. Phil. 1:9
3. Joy comes through seeing problems as possibilities. Phil. 1:18
4. Joy comes through an assurance of a secure future. Phil. 1:21
5. Joy comes through a God-honoring conduct. Phil. 1:27
6. Joy comes through loving relationships. Phil. 2:3-4
7. Joy comes through humble attitudes. Phil. 2:5-6
8. Joy comes through discovering God’s plan. Phil. 2:12-13

What are the characteristics of a good friend?

1. A good friend is genuinely _____ . Phil. 2:19-21

ACTION: Reflect on Christ’s _____.

Measurement: 1 _____ **10**

2. A good friend models _____ . Phil. 2:22-24

ACTION: Persevere through hard _____.

Measurement: 1 _____ **10**

3. A good friend exudes _____ . Phil. 2:25-27

ACTION: Schedule prayer for _____.

Measurement: 1 _____ **10**

4. A good friend remains _____ . Phil. 2:25-30

ACTION: Celebrate those _____.

Measurement: 1 _____ **10**

Take Home Truth

Christ _____ good friends.

Today’s Core Belief:

Biblical Community: “I will fellowship with other Christians because God has called me to love and encourage others.”
(from Hebrews 10:24-25)

Today’s Action: Measure the kind of friend you are.
Determine what you can do to be a 10 in each category.



Deeper Connection Study

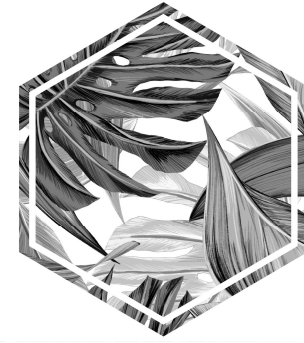
In what seems like a parenthetical portion of the letter, Paul shares his deep regard for his ministry companions as he commends them to the church. Paul certainly wants this church to know about the labors done on their behalf.

Today's Core Belief discussed: Christian Service.

Read Philippians 2:19-30

1. Why does Paul send Timothy to Philippi and what does he say about him (vv. 19-24)?
2. What five terms does Paul use to describe Epaphroditus (v. 25)? Why do you think he chose these descriptors?
3. What qualities of Epaphroditus' servanthood are highlighted (vv. 26-30)? What does this reveal about his character?
4. How is this correspondence and proposed arrangement of visits deeply personal for Paul?
5. What sacrifices are made for the church in the cause of Christ? How is this instructive for us? Who have been your role models of this kind of Christian living?
6. How deep are your commitments and relationships at church? How do you serve in God's kingdom work?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for Christian friends and partners in ministry. Pray for your friendships to be joyful and honoring to Christ.



life is good.

Finding Joy in Tough Times

It has been discovered that as the use of technology and smart phones has increased that members of society have become more and more isolated. This state has a number of dilemmas, which include an increase of depression among users, as well as a decreased ability to write and communicate. However, one of the increasing quandaries of this trend is that people have fewer friends. Subsequently many parents struggle to help their children find good friends and not be led away by bad influences that exploit innocent youth who are desperate for peer approval.

The Bible has a lot to say about what it takes to develop godly friendships. We see examples of great friendships in the Old Testament narratives with people like David and Jonathon, Elijah and Elisha, and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The New Testament also has a lot to say about friendships, and the Apostle Paul was one of the most articulate when it came to godly friendship. In his letter to the Philippians he describes two of his dear friends, Timothy and Epaphroditus, and in doing so, he provides four characteristics of a great friend.

