



Surge Life's Storms with Joy!

"Leadership" is Spelled "S*E*R*V*A*N*T"

Week 10—Philippians 2:19-30

Week 9 Flashback: Paul encouraged the Christians in Philippi to live godly lives because non-believers were watching. Through his letter, Paul reminded the Christians that they were responsible to share the truth and hope of the Gospel with a "crooked and depraved generation." Therefore, they should not argue or complain among themselves. They should "shine like stars" in a dark world!

Read It: 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 takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his 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. ²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus (ee-paf-roh-DIE-tuhs), my brother, fellow 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 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

Think About It: A Servant's Heart

In Philippians 2:22 Paul said that Timothy had "proved himself" in the work of the Gospel and that Timothy **served** him like a child **serv**ing his father. In our highly competitive society we don't often see people gladly **serv**ing one another. Instead we see people willing to claw themselves to the top, stepping on whomever gets in their way of success or popularity! But, it was not so with Timothy and Epaphroditus (ee-paf-roh-DIE-tuhs). They understood how Jesus defined leadership in Mark 10:43-44 when He said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your **servant**, and whoever wants to be first, must be slave of all."

Paul had great confidence in Timothy and Epaphroditus. Paul knew that while he was imprisoned he could send these two out on his behalf. Paul knew that they would humbly **serve** the believers in Philippi, Corinth or Ephesus. And, Paul was confident that they would not have cocky attitudes that implied, "Listen to **us**, we are Paul's right-hand men, so **serve** us!"

Oftentimes people feel the need to flaunt their power and authority to feel important. Maybe they do this because they are insecure and base their self worth on how they imagine others are viewing them! True Christian leaders don't need others to stroke their egos. Why? Because they understand *who they are in Christ!* This truth frees them up to lay down their egos, selfishness and personal wants to **serve** others!



Talk About It:

1. **Read** Philippians 2:20. Paul describes Timothy as someone who has a “genuine interest” in other people. As a Christ follower, you can’t serve others as you should unless you are sincerely interested in them. **What steps** can you take to become **truly** interested in the lives and needs of others?
2. Now that you are interested in someone other than yourself (Ha!), **how** can you be a servant leader and show people that you care about their lives as much as your own?
3. **Read** verse 21. The Bible says we tend to put our own wants before all else, *even* in front of the interests of Jesus Christ. Wow! Jesus willingly died for us yet we don’t even consider that Jesus has personal interests too! **What** are the interests of our Lord?
4. **How** do you put your own interests in front of the interests of Jesus?
5. **Describe** the ways you put your own interests before:
 - a. family
 - b. friends
6. Putting the “needs of others first” is a great leadership quality! **List** as many characteristics of leadership that come to mind.
7. **Re-read** verses 20-22 and **recap** what qualities made Timothy a true **servant leader**.
8. **Read** verses 25-30. Paul describes Epaphroditus four ways. **How** does each relate to servant leadership:
 - a. fellow worker (v. 25)?
 - b. fellow soldier (v. 25)?
 - c. caregiver (v. 25b, 30)?
 - d. martyr (v. 30)?
9. Paul wrote Philippians while under house arrest for preaching the Gospel. **How** did he demonstrate leadership when he sent Timothy and Epaphroditus to serve in his place?
10. True leaders empower others to lead. **What** makes it difficult to turn over or relinquish our leadership responsibilities to someone else?

Lightning Bolt Moment →



Time for a mind **Jolt**. Leaders exist in every organization, whether in Corporate America or in the student government at your high school. But it’s important to realize that there are different types of leadership. In our culture, most people practice a top-down, self-serving leadership style. However, the Bible teaches that *the best form of leadership is spelled “S-E-R-V-A-N-T.”* With today’s lesson in mind, **give** examples of both a self-serving leader and a servant leader.

Joy Surge →



When a business or a home operates within “servant leadership” principles, it enhances the **enjoyment** of those who participate! **Think** of modern-day examples of people, groups or corporations that demonstrate genuine servant leadership. **How** may this leadership style bring **JOY** to **J**esus, **O**thers and **Y**ou?