

Gospel Family (Philippians 2:19-30)

Family is the environment where our personality and personhood are cultivated. No man is an island, and the people we do life with are part of what shapes us. This is not just true of our families of origin, but also true in our gospel communities. The church is not an event, it is a family. *Gospel family is where gospel fruit is cultivated.*

1. Gospel Relationships

- Discipleship | *Paul & Timothy*
- Camaraderie | *Paul & Epaphroditus*

2. Gospel Emotions

- Joy
- Sorrow
- Love
 - *Timothy*: genuine love
 - *Epaphroditus*: sacrificial love

3. Gospel Synergy

As gifted as Paul was, he didn't do solo ministry. When we work together, using our gifts and functioning as the family of God, we can do things we would never be able to do on our own.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. How are Christian friendships different from other friendships?
2. Have you ever experienced a relationship like that of Paul and Timothy?
3. Timothy was genuinely concerned for others, more than for himself. Paul indicates this is rare. Can you think of examples where someone is concerned for others, but not in a genuine and selfless way?
4. Who has been an Epaphroditus in your life?
5. How does this passage show us that emotions are a healthy part of our relationships in the body of Christ?
6. Are your emotions shaped by the gospel? Does what break God's heart break yours? Does what brings God joy bring you joy?
7. How does Paul demonstrate that he was looking after the Philippians' interests and not only his own (v. 28-30)?

Pray and thank God for partnerships in the gospel. Thank Him specifically for the people with whom you serve and have served in even the simplest and seemingly insignificant ways. Ask God to show you someone you should bring alongside with you, or whom you should come alongside, to work in partnership.