

# *SOLID-* *Serving Others*

Power, Glory, Success. Throughout human history these have captured the hearts of men and women. In the midst of a society which measures worth by position and wealth, it is no wonder that Christians have struggled to stand for the values of the kingdom of God: humility, self-denial, gentleness, love. In the eyes of the world these are often signs of weakness rather than strength. In contrast Jesus came not to be served but to serve and He calls us to do the same.

- What images come to your mind when you hear the word servant? Explain

## **Philippians 2**

- What themes connect Jesus, Timothy and Epaphroditus in this passage?
- How is verse 1 an incentive to obey Paul's command in verse 2?
- How do Paul's commands in verses 3-4 go against our natural tendencies?
- How do they go against the spirit of our society?
- How is Christ the supreme example of the humility and servanthood described in verses 3-4?

- In verses 12-18 Paul exhorts the Philippians to live godly lives. In what way is he a model of servanthood for them?
- How does Paul contrast Timothy with others (vv. 20-21)?
- If Timothy were alive today, how might his “genuine interest” in the church’s welfare be manifested in practical ways?
- How has Epaphroditus been a servant to Paul and the Philippians (vv.25-30)?
- Jesus said “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45). Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus demonstrated the same kind of lifestyle. What are some ways you might follow their example?
- How can you serve others joyfully without getting “burned out”?

#### Summary:

Jesus Christ was humble, willing to give up His rights in order to obey God and serve people. Like Christ, we should have a servant’s attitude, serving out of love for God and for others, not out of guilt or fear. Remember you can choose your attitude. You can approach life expecting to be served, or you can look for opportunities to serve others. Pray that God would give you grace to serve in practical ways in the coming weeks!

#### Verse to remember:

My dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:58