

Proven Character of a Son
Philippians 2:19-30

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06/16/24

I. Like-minded Timothy. Philippians 2:19-21

Paul was a prisoner during this time, and he realized that he did not have control of anything. When we get to a place where we realize we do not have control we will gain the _____ of God.

- **1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my true child in the _____.**

"It is the duty of ministers to care for the state of their people and be _____ for their welfare." (Matthew Henry)

II. Proven character. Philippians 2:22

"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is _____ you." (C.S. Lewis)

- Paul stated that Timothy had proven character and having a proven character starts with a _____ heart. **1 Peter 5:5-6**

Ultimately Timothy not only showed his proven character through humility, he also showed proven character by the way he _____ his spiritual father Paul while spreading the Gospel.

III. Hoping to visit. Philippians 2:23-25

"Timothy was not only Paul's son and Paul's servant, but he became Paul's _____." (Warren Wiersbe)

- Like Timothy, Epaphroditus was a man Paul valued as a _____ in the work of the Gospel ministry.

A priest has a two-fold ministry: to represent God to the people through serving and good works, and to represent the people before God through _____.

IV. A costly service. Philippians 2:26-30

The willingness to put the work of the Gospel above his own personal safety and desires showed the proven _____ of Epaphroditus.

- In the days of the Early Church, there were men and women who called themselves _____, which was taken from this same Greek word used in **not regarding his life**.

V. Practical Application.

1. We should teach our children how to have a _____ relationship with the Lord.
2. We should protect our children from ungodly _____.
3. We are to _____ our children in church.
4. We are to teach our children that God has a _____ for us.
5. We are to _____ our children about prayer and the Bible.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read **Philippians 2:19-21**. Discuss how Timothy showed his like-mindedness while serving the Lord alongside Paul.
Acts 16:1-2, Philippians 2:3-4, 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 1 Timothy 1:2, 1 Timothy 6:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. Read **Philippians 2:22**. Rich said during the sermon, *"Spiritual Maturity and Proven Character go hand in hand."* Discuss the similarities of Spiritual Maturity and Proven Character. *What are some characteristics of proven character? How would your family members and those closest to you describe your character?*
Romans 5:1-5, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 2:6, Ephesians 4:11-16, Hebrews 5:13-14, 1 Peter 5:5-6
3. Read **Philippians 2:23-30**. *Who was Epaphroditus? How did Paul describe him?*
Romans 12:9-10, Philippians 4:18-19
4. Read **Deuteronomy 6:5-9**. Discuss the five points of the Practical Application section of the sermon note sheet.
John 10:10, Ephesians 2:10, Ephesians 6:4, Hebrews 10:25