

# EXAMPLES OF SUPERSTARDOM

## PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

TWO ORDINARY GUYS THAT ARE THE EPITOME OF EXCELLENCE—SUPERSTARS—**SACRIFICIAL SERVANTS**

- Paul introduces us to two of his helpers in the ministry, *Timothy and Epaphroditus*, and he does this for a very specific reason . . .
- **THEY WERE SUPERSTARS, TRUE SERVANTS**

## 2. BEING AN ENCOURAGEMENT v. 19

Paul was an encouragement to both Timothy and Epaphroditus, and they then encouraged the Church and Paul. We need to exercise the gift of encouragement!

### LOOK AT JESUS' ENCOURAGING CARE FOR US!

- Think of Jesus as a **SHEPHERD (JOHN 10:14)**; we need to care about people lost from God.
- Think of Jesus as a **POTTER (ISAIAH 64:8)**; we need to care for the transformation of all believers.
- Think of Jesus as a **FARMER (MATTHEW 13:3)**; we need to care about spreading the truth of the gospel.

**ALL THESE THINGS ARE AN ENCOURAGEMENT.**

**JESUS CARES!**

### 3. SOME SUPERSTAR QUALITIES v. 20-24

Tips to keep us on the field and playing the Game well:

1. Sincere care and concern for others' well-being.
2. Stop being narcissistic—getting past yourself.
3. Like Paul, be a caring teacher, and like Timothy, an eager learner.
4. There is no sin in caring for yourself.
5. Let God call the shots.

## 4. THREE TITLES v. 25

Paul wanted the Philippians to know how highly he regarded Epaphroditus, so he characterized him with three titles:

1. **MY BROTHER**, which means he was a fellow believer.
2. **FELLOW WORKER**, which means he, too, was working for God's kingdom—in Philippi, in Rome, or both.
3. **FELLOW SOLDIER**, which refers to the solidarity among believers who are fighting the same battle—that of bringing the gospel to an unbelieving and increasingly hostile world.

## 5. FULLY COMMITTED v. 26-27

### WHAT IS IT THAT STOPS YOU DEAD IN YOUR TRACKS?

- Serious sickness of yourself, family or friend
- The possibility of death
- Worry over what might happen to you or someone you care about

*Does Paul's concern that he would sorrow over the loss of his friend show a lack of faith? Not at all, there are two sides.*

### THE TWO SIDES OF PRAYING FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

- THE **ALTRUISTIC** SIDE—the good of others.
- THE **SELF-ORIENTED** SIDE—the good of self.

**BOTH HAVE BIBLICAL MERIT—WE MAY PRAY LIKEWISE.**

## 6. BEING TRANSPARENT v. 28-30

BEHOLD THE TOTALLY HUMAN PAUL

- Why should someone so strong in faith as Paul feel anxious? And why admit to it publicly?
- You mean Paul was not super human? Hardly!

Solid relationships and genuine prayers require this kind of honesty.

**BEING A SUPERSTAR MEANS KNOWING YOUR WEAKNESSES, ADMITTING THEM, AND GIVING HONOR TO OTHERS.**

PAUL'S FRIENDS, TIMOTHY AND EPAPHRODITUS, WERE TWO ORDINARY GUYS THAT WERE ACTUALLY SUPERSTARS—as sacrificial servants.