

BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS SERIES:

Joy in Christ

Philippians 2:25-30

Epaphroditus – A True Brother

Aaron Townsend



WHO WAS EPAPHRODITUS?

- Minister from the church at Philippi
- Tasked to deliver the gifts to Paul at Rome
- Trustworthy and of a high reputation
- Name means belonging to Aphrodite*



HE'S CONSIDERED A BROTHER

- He was first a spiritual brother
 - Believer in Christ
 - You are born into the family of God (John 3)
 - There are steps to becoming a brother
- He was more than a spiritual brother
- We don't talk often about the relationships between brothers*
 - Cain and Abel, Joseph and his brothers
 - David and Jonathan
 - Apostles



HE'S CONSIDERED A BROTHER

- The relationship of a brother is different
- Epaphroditus and Paul's relationship displays true brotherly love
- Men need other men to talk, process and confide in*
- Popular culture view of brotherhood is gangs or womanisers



HE'S CONSIDERED A FELLOW WORKER

- Co-laborer – Companion in work – Fellow helper
- Paul took the work of the gospel serious – would call out deserters! Laborers are few (Matt 9:37)
- Men bonding through work is super empowering
- Man was given work in the beginning
- A Man's purpose is intertwined with his work*



HE'S CONSIDERED A FELLOW SOLDIER

- One who shares in your labours and conflicts for Christ sake – common warfare
- Epaphroditus didn't allow Paul's chains to put him off
- Ministering to Paul was seen as a work of Christ
- Epaphroditus ministered to Paul at a vulnerable time

HE'S CONSIDERED A FELLOW SOLDIER



- Sometimes men can only be vulnerable around other men*
- Epaphroditus has his own trial and warfare
- Fighting together in a trial develops a special relationship
- Paul walked with Epaphroditus to the edge of death through prayer!



EPAPHRODITUS IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED

- People like Epaphroditus should be respected
- He put his life on the line - literally
- In the army if you run away during battle the penalty could be death
- Are you willing to die for this because Epaphroditus was!* - James Cone - what does success look like?

WE NEED OUR BROTHERS!



- Are you apart of the spiritual brotherhood?
- Squash your beef with blood your brother!
- Find your other brothers!

