

# *Living Out the Mind of Christ*

## Philippians 2:19-31

Big Idea: Living out the mind of Christ means denying self and serving others. Like Timothy and Epaphroditus, we're called to be doers of the Word—not just hearers. Are you willing to risk comfort for the gospel? God still has work for you today. Don't retire from serving Him.

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### Key Takeaways:

1. **Living out the mind of Christ begins with knowing Christ** as Savior and Lord
2. **Timothy and Epaphroditus were ordinary people** who became extraordinary servants through discipleship and devotion
3. **Discipleship is ongoing**—we should always be learning from others and pouring into others
4. **Selfless service often means doing the hard work** others won't volunteer for
5. **As long as we have breath, God has work for us to do**—there's no retirement from serving Him
6. **We must be doers of the Word, not just hearers**

### Scriptures:

- ☐ Philippians 2:5-8
- ☐ Philippians 2:13
- ☐ 2 Timothy 1:3-5
- ☐ Acts 16:1-4
- ☐ Romans 16
- ☐ Philippians 4:18
- ☐ James 1:22

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### Opening Question:

Share about a time when you arrived somewhere expecting one thing but found something completely different. How did you handle the situation?

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### Discussion Questions:

Ron opened with a story about arriving at a messy Airbnb. How does this illustration help us understand the difference between our expectations and reality when it comes to our spiritual lives?

Read Philippians 2:5-8 together. What does it mean practically to "have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus"?

The sermon emphasized that having the mind of Christ begins with knowing Christ. How would you explain the difference between knowing about Jesus and truly knowing Him?

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Paul said of Timothy, "I have no one like him" (v. 20). What specific qualities made Timothy stand out from others who were "seeking their own interests"?

Timothy was raised by a believing mother and grandmother who passed on their faith. How does this highlight the importance of spiritual influence in families and the church? Who has been a "Timothy" in your life?

The sermon stated: "Discipleship is an ongoing process." Who are you currently discipling or pouring into? If no one, what barriers are keeping you from doing so?

Paul described Epaphroditus as a "brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, messenger, and minister" (v. 25). Which of these roles resonates most with you, and why?

Epaphroditus nearly died delivering a gift and ministering to Paul. The sermon noted: "Most Christians are more eager to give the gift instead of willing to deliver the gift." What does this mean, and how have you seen this in your own life?

The sermon reminded us there's no retirement from serving God. How does this challenge or encourage you, especially if you're in a season of life where you feel limited?

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#### Practical Applications:

1. Identify one person you can begin intentionally discipling or mentoring
2. Volunteer for a difficult task at church or in your community that others might avoid
3. Reach out to someone in your church family who is going through a hard time—don't just ask "How are you?" but really listen
4. Evaluate your schedule and commitments: Are they centered on your interests or Christ's interests?
5. Have a conversation with a younger believer about your faith journey and what God has taught you
6. Take the notes from this sermon and review them daily, asking God to show you how to apply them

#### Closing Thought/Prayer:

Father, help us to be like Timothy and Epaphroditus—ordinary people who serve you extraordinarily. Give us your mind, your heart, and your willingness to deny ourselves and serve others for your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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