

# Message Notes

**Joy in Gospel Friendship**  
*Philippians 2:19-30*  
*Joy Revolution, part 8*  
*November 12, 2006*

Remember, learning to “Delight Ourselves in the Lord” involves:

1. Willfully choosing
2. Diligently practicing
3. Humbly using the “helps” that God provides:
  - Creation & the Word
  - Prayer & Praise
  - Christian community

**grace**  
San Luis Obispo

# Message Outline

**Joy in Gospel Friendship**  
*Philippians 2:19-30*  
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*November 12, 2006*

Joy Stream #6 = Joy in Gospel Friendship

## I. Strongly Connected in the Family of Christ

**Timothy:**

*of kindred spirit (2:20)*

*served with me . . . like a child serving his father (2:22)*

**Epaphroditus:**

*my brother (2:25)*

## II. Selflessly Concerned for Others in Christ

**Timothy:**

*concerned for your welfare 2:20*

**Epaphroditus:**

*longing for you and was distressed . . . (2:26)*

## III. Steadfastly Committed to the Cause of Christ

**Timothy:**

*you know his proven worth that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel (2:22)*

**Epaphroditus:**

*fellow worker, fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need (2:25)*

*he came close to death for the work of Christ. (2:30)*

**Drinking from the Stream . . .** Take inventory of your friendships. Which ones are “Gospel Friendships?” Rejoice in and take the time to encourage these Gospel friends.

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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### ***Joy in Gospel Friendship***

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1. Read Philippians 2:19-30. How is this text both informative and illustrative? How does this text relate to all that comes before in chapter 2?
2. Paul uses family language in this passage at least twice. Find and record these two instances? Where else do you see Paul's warm affection spilling forth?
3. Look at Acts 16:1-6. How did Paul originally meet Timothy? How did they get to know one another? What is Paul really saying about their relationship in Philippians 2:22?
4. What evidence is there in the text that both Timothy and Epaphroditus were both applying Philippians 2:4 and 2:12 in their lives?
5. What evidence is there in the text that these two men were both "field-tested go to guys?"

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### ***Joy in Gospel Friendship***

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Why do we tend to be staid, self-protective, independent people doing the Christian life on our own instead of like Paul who is so unashamedly relational and intimate in his Gospel sacrifice? Why aren't we more like Paul?
3. What is the basis of most worldly friendship? In other words, how and over what do we connect with others in our lives? Why should the Gospel provide better and more lasting connections?
4. Talk about a Gospel friend in your life with whom you share these three qualities: Connectedness, concern for others, and commitment to a cause. How did that relationship develop? If you don't have a relationship like that, why do you think that is? (Are not the relationships in your Growth Group heading in that direction? If not, why not?)
5. Paul rejoices in the Philippians in 1:3. He tells the Philippians to rejoice in the return of Epaphroditus in 2:29. How do we choose and practice rejoicing in our Gospel relationships?
6. Who are men and women like Timothy and Epaphroditus that you joyfully hold in high regard?