

## The Pursuit of Joy: Get Here if You Can

Main Text: Philippians 2:19-30 NLT

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Phil. 2:19:23 NLT

QUESTION: What will it take for you to reach “no one else” status?

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Phil. 2:25-30 NLT

QUESTION: What will it take for you to reach “I’m sick, but I’m NOT shut in” status?

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Phil. 2:24 NLT

QUESTION: Can you become one who’s so humble that they’re exalted?

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Bonus POINT: Being exalted doesn’t always look the way we imagine. Aim for it anyway. Stay humble.

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### Small Group Questions:

1. In Philippians 2:19-30, Paul highlights his companions Timothy and Epaphroditus. Why do you think Paul took the time to write such glowing commendations for these specific men in the middle of a letter focused on the pursuit of joy?
2. In verses 19-23, Paul says he has "no one else like" Timothy, who genuinely cares for the Philippians' welfare. What specific character traits or habits do you think it takes for someone to reach that kind of **"no one else" status** in their faith and relationships?
3. Paul notes with sadness that "everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ." In what ways does our current culture push us toward self-interest, and how can we actively resist that to care for others the way Timothy did?
4. Turning to verses 25-30, Epaphroditus risked his life and became severely ill for the work of Christ. What does it look like in our modern context to possess an **"I'm sick, but I'm NOT shut in"** level of dedication and resilience for God's mission?

5. Epaphroditus was deeply distressed not just because he was terribly sick, but because his home church *heard* he was ill. What does this reveal about his selfless character and his deep love for his church family?
6. Both of these men displayed extreme humility by putting Paul's needs and the church's needs ahead of their own comforts. In your own life, do you believe you can become someone who is **so humble that they are ultimately exalted** by God?
7. We are reminded that being exalted by God often doesn't look the way we might initially imagine. How does the world's definition of "exaltation" or success differ from the way God honors those who humbly serve?
8. Knowing that God's reward might not match our worldly expectations of recognition, how can we intentionally **aim for it anyway** and stay humble in our daily routines?
9. Paul explicitly tells the church to honor people like Epaphroditus who risk everything for the gospel. Who is an "unsung hero" in your life or church that quietly serves with this kind of selfless humility, and how can you actively honor them this week?