

The Proven Character Of Timothy

Phil. 2:19-24

Introduction:

- A. Timothy was especially useful because he had proven himself to Paul and Phillipians .(v. 20-22).
 - 1. Influential and responsible positions need people of proven character.
 - a. Deacons must have proven themselves. (1 Tim.3:10).
 - b. Elders must have proven themselves as suggested by various qualifications.
 - c. Teachers/preachers should have proven themselves faithful. (2 Tim. 2:2).
 - 2. Influential and responsible positions in the church should not be given prematurely.
 - a. Without giving them time to prove faithfulness and qualification.
 - b. Without giving them time to establish reputation needed for good influence.
 - c. Without giving them time to prove their change genuine, if past unstable.
 - 3. Influential and responsible positions should go to people of proven character for 2 good reasons.
 - a. To help insure the quality of the work.
 - b. To help insure the church against scandal.
- B. Timothy proved several traits of character that we all need in order to maximize our usefulness:

Discussion:

I. Timothy Proved The *Spirituality* Of His Character.

- A. By seeking the things of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:21).
- B. By learning the will of God. (2 Tim. 3:14,15).

II. Timothy Proved The *Unselfishness* Of His Character.

- A. By not seeking his own. (Phil. 2:21)
 - 1. This demonstrated love. (1 Cor. 13:5).
 - 2. This imitated Christ. (Phil. 2:1-11; Rom. 5:8).
- B. By placing good of Cause above personal rights. (Acts 16:3; cf. 1 Cor. 9).

III. Timothy Proved The *Greatness* Of His Character.

- A. By serving. (Phil. 2:22).
- B. Greatness in Kingdom differs world's concept of greatness.
 - 1. Servants are the greatest. (Matt. 23:11)
 - 2. Greatest serve rather than demanding service (Matt. 20:28).

IV. Timothy Proved The *Compatibility* Of His Character.

- A. A fellow worker. (Rom. 16:21 cf. Phil. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1).
- B. Fellow workers must be compatible and peaceful.
 - 1. Such cannot be self-centered.
 - 2. Such cannot be over-bearing.
- C. Fellow workers must be on same wave-length.
 - 1. One cannot not walk in truth and other in error.
 - 2. One cannot not be firm while other compromises.

V. Timothy Proved The *Genuineness* Of His Character

- A. Held to same genuine faith of mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5).
- B. Held to faith while others made shipwreck of theirs. (1 Tim. 1:19,20; 2 Tim. 2:15-18).
- C. Held to word of God while other perverted it. (cf. Gal. 1:8,9).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you trying to develop the kind of character Timothy had?
- B. Are you willing to prove your character so that good brethren have confidence in you - to commend you and trust you with responsibility?
“But you know his proven character....”