

## Personal Application and Group Interaction:

Who do you know that demonstrates genuine selflessness?  
What is it that makes it genuine in your estimation?

What value do you place on this quality of life? When are you at your best at setting your own interests aside to care for others in very practical ways? What brought you to that point?

Timothy was mentored by Paul. He grew in his understanding of God's will and his commitment to His work in the world. He learned how to lead in very difficult situations. He would soon bear the mantle of ministry entrusted to his teacher, Paul. This student also cared for the concerns of his teacher. Who taught you to serve the needs of others?

Epaphroditus traveled many miles to serve Paul while he was in prison. In a real sense, he risked it all. How do you picture him getting that assignment? The Philippians were told to honor people like him. How would they go about doing that? How do you honor those who practice genuine selflessness in service to the work of Christ in the world? How do we as a church so honor these people? In what ways could we do a better job of honoring those who give themselves away for the work of God?



# Genuine Selflessness

Philippians 2:19-30

Pastor John  
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When have you witnessed genuine selflessness? Where does it come from? What does it take to get there?

There ought to be a law requiring people to be selfless! Surely that would make it happen! Genuine selflessness: it's a nice idea, but isn't it an unattainable ideal as a way of life? Yes, it is practiced in fits and starts; a soldier jumps on a grenade to save his buddies but there is no second act. And why give yourself away for someone who isn't willing or able to return the favor?

The path toward considering others as more significant than ourselves (Phil.2:3-4), is inspired by someone much higher than yourselves. Our text honors two such people who gave themselves away.

**Their story:**

**Their genuine concern:**

**More than words:**

**Honor them:**

