

KEEPING IT IN A SPLIT-APART TOGETHER WORLD

PHILIPPIANS: A LETTER FOR OUR TIMES

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at www.newdaynw.com/sermons*

Read Philippians 2:25-30

Paul refers to Epaphroditus as a "brother, coworker and fellow soldier." Look for other instances where Paul uses those terms. How do you interpret them? What kind of weight do they carry?

Who do you have in your life that you would apply similar terms to? Would you use those words sparingly or frequently?

Epaphroditus was not able to complete his mission the way he would have liked and Paul sent him home early. Can you think of a time when you felt like you failed? How did that impact your sense of self-worth?

Paul goes out of his way to make sure the Philippian church honors Epaphroditus rather than critiques him as a disappointment. Why do you think it is easier to judge people for their failures than celebrate them in spite of their mistakes?

We defined humility as "the ability to live within the limits of being human." Is it more difficult to accept your own limits or the limits of other people?

Take some time to reflect on where you tend to find your own worth. Then pray about who you might be able to encourage and affirm who is struggling with their own sense of limits and failure.