

Let me ask you a question: *What do you want this church to be known for?*

Yes, we're committed to making healthy disciples of Jesus Christ. But when people talk about Bridge Fellowship Church, what do we want them to say?

Take a moment and really think about it.

Some churches are known for their worship. Others for their preaching. Some are recognized for their programs, their outreach, or even their generosity in helping people financially. But is that what truly makes a church shine?

If we're going to be a church that stands out in a way that honors God, it won't be because of a building, a slick service, or how many followers we have on social media. It won't be because of great events or a well-organized system.

No—what makes us shine is something deeper. It's *our heart behind what we do*. It's why we serve in the first place.

We want to glorify God and be a blessing to our church family. That's what truly sets a church apart.

And here's where it gets personal—because a church is only as strong as the people who make it up. If we want to be a church that stands out for the *right* reasons, it starts with each of us choosing to serve—not for recognition, not out of obligation—but out of a genuine love for God and one another.

So today, we're going to look at [Philippians 2:19-30](#) and unpack *four ways* we can shine as godly servants right here at BFC.

And first and foremost, it begins with this:

Demonstrate genuine concern for your church family. v.19-21

As you know, Paul is in prison, he's there b/c he refused to compromise his commitment to Jesus and the mission of the Gospel. The Philippian church itself is living proof of his faithfulness.

Think about it: without Paul's obedience to God's call, they wouldn't even exist as a church. Their faith, their spiritual growth, their very identity as a body of believers—all of it can be traced back to Paul's ministry.

But now, Paul is stuck in Rome. He can't visit. He can't preach in person. All he can do is write letters and send trusted ministry partners in his place. And that's what he's telling the Philippians: *"I hope to send Timothy to you soon."*

Now, Timothy wasn't just some random guy. He was Paul's right-hand man—trained, tested, and proven through years of ministry. If Paul couldn't go himself, Timothy was the next best thing.

And listen to how Paul describes him: *"I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely care about your interests..."*

That's *high* praise, coming from Paul. So, what set Timothy apart? What made him stand out? What made Paul think so highly of him. It was b/c

"Timothy genuinely cared for people."

That was his defining trait. That's what made him an effective leader. He didn't use people to build his reputation. He wasn't in it for applause, position, or influence. His first question wasn't, *"How does this benefit me?"* but *"How can I serve others?"*

Now, some might hear that and think, *"So, we're just supposed to let people walk all over us?"* Not at all. But here are two things to consider:

1. **This is exactly what Jesus modeled.** If serving others makes someone a "doormat," then Jesus was the biggest one of all. But we *know* that's not true. Jesus *chose* to serve. He said, *"I came not to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many."* ([Mark 10:45](#)).

Timothy wasn't a weak servant—he was strong enough to humble himself, to lower himself and put others first.

2. **If no one is willing to serve, the church falls apart.** Think about it: How can we grow in maturity if everyone is focused on themselves? How can we reach our city with the Gospel if all we do is chase our own agendas? How can we be a light to our community if we're constantly competing instead of helping each other?

The answer is... we *can't*. And we *won't*. A self-centered church is like crabs in a bucket—always pulling each other down instead of lifting each other up.

This is why Paul sent Timothy—to be an example, to challenge the Philippians to do the same. And this is exactly what we strive to do here at **BFC**.

Our church was built on this principle:

We come last. God first and our people people are second. Your spiritual growth matters to us. We want to see you thrive in your faith.

We want to help you grow deeper in your understanding of Jesus and what it means to be part of a faith community.

We want you to experience a warm, encouraging, safe space for you to thrive in the faith.

But It starts with leadership—our elders must be servant leaders, committed to your spiritual well-being. It continues with our deacons, ministry leaders, and volunteers. But ultimately. Ultimately, *it's all of us working together* that makes us a strong, united church.

When we lift each other up, when we help one another overcome struggles, when we pray for one another, when we encourage each other to walk in holiness—that's when we truly shine for Jesus.

And honestly? We're already doing this well. I see it. I hear the stories. I see the social media post. I've benefited from it personally.

So my challenge to you is this: let's *keep* doing it. Let's maintain the heart of service that defines us, and protect it all cost.

And as we do, we will...

2. Build and maintain a strong track record in service. v.22-24

That's the second key to shining for Jesus as Godly servants. Timothy exemplifies this. His ministry of consistent and trustworthy service made him invaluable to Paul and a great help to the Philippian church.

In v22 Paul makes it clear... *"Timothy's godly character speaks for itself. The Philippians knew this firsthand. Paul goes as far as to compares Timothy's service to that of a son serving his father."*

In a healthy relationship, a father should be able to trust his life and the family's well-being to his son. Doing business with the son should be no different than doing business with the father. That's the level of trust Paul had in Timothy.

Timothy's value to the Philippians came from his proven track record of faithful service to the Lord. His reputation for godliness and integrity preceded him. IOW he was well spoken of and trusted by a great many. As followers of Christ, our reputation is everything. It determines whether people will join us or avoid us like the plague.

Some might dismiss this, saying, "Who cares what people think?" But that the wrong attitude to have, your reputation matters immensely. Think about Yelp and Google reviews. Today, businesses rise or fall based on customer ratings. One bad review can sink a restaurant. One endorsement from the right influencer can make it an overnight success.

Reputation is everything. [Proverbs 22:1](#) says, *"A good name is to be chosen over great wealth..."* Your name—your reputation—is your most valuable asset.

It's so valuable. So influential, that It takes years to build a good reputation and it only takes, one bad decision to ruin it. And in most cases it takes a lifetime to repair the damage, if ever. I've heard it said that, "A reputation is built over time as others evaluate our life choices and determine who we really are based on how we behave."

Take that one step further—our reputation directly impacts our witness to the lost and our trustworthiness within the church.

You might deliver the most beautiful, theologically sound gospel presentation—clearly explaining who God is, why people need salvation, and how Jesus provides it.

But if your character is questionable, if rumors about hypocrisy swirl around you, people will tune you out.

Worse yet, if someone does come to faith under your influence while knowing you live hypocritically, they may assume that

God is okay with that kind of life. Convincing themselves that they're saved when they really aren't. Both outcomes dishonor God and weaken the church.

That's why faithfulness, integrity, and consistency in service matter. Your track record, the person who you are known for being speaks louder than your words. Let's be Christians whose reputation brings honor to Jesus. Let's be a church who's reputation draws people in and encourages people to join our mission of making healthy disciples.

Build and protect your reputation of faithful service to the Lord and His people that's no.2... The third way to shine as a Godly Servant is to...

Let love, not obligation, drive your service. v.25-27

There's a clear difference between serving out of genuine love and serving out of obligation. The attitude, the energy, and the impact of our service reveal what's truly motivating us.

The last thing any church needs is people serving just because they feel like they have to. Yes, filling a need is important, but our service should be driven by love—love for Christ and love for His people. That love should compel us to say yes when asked to serve and sustain us to serve faithfully. It should push us to give our best, using our gifts with joy in our hearts and a smile on our faces.

Consider Epaphroditus in this regard. This man loved people, and he loved to serve. He ministered to Paul while he was in prison. He longed to be with the Philippians and serve them too. In fact, he cared so much that when he found out they had heard about his illness, it *bothered* him.

Think about that—he wasn't just focused on his own suffering. He was more concerned about how his condition affected others. That's the heart of a true servant. He didn't serve out of duty or obligation but out of deep love for Paul and the Philippians.

Even in his weakness, his thoughts weren't on himself but on the well-being of those he served. He longed to be with them, not for his own comfort, but so they wouldn't have to worry. That's the kind of love that should drive our service. Not obligation. Not guilt. Not b/c of who asked you. Not simply b/c you're available. But out of a genuine desire to love people well, just as Christ has loved us.

When love, not obligation, drives our service, it impacts everything. It creates a church culture that people *want* to be part of. And I have to say—this is something we do well. **I hear it all the time, in fact it the number one thing people say about our church, is that they felt loved and cared for when they visited us.**

And the reason they felt that way is because our volunteers love Jesus and genuinely love people. We delight in serving because we know it's not about us. It's about showing the love of Christ to everyone who walks through our doors. And why do we do that? Well, it's because Jesus first loved us. He welcomed us with love, and now we do the same.

BFC, let your love for Jesus and His people be your only motivation to serve. And as you serve, do what you do as unto the Lord—knowing that when we serve others, we're actually serving Him.

Let love, not obligation, be your motivation to serve. Jesus deserves that... and the people need it.

That's no.3... Our 4th and final way to shine for Jesus as Godly-servants is to...

Honor and appreciate those who serve. v.28-30

How we treat those who serve us matters. Just as it's important for servants to love and respect the people we serve, it's just as crucial—that those being served honor and appreciate the ones doing the work.

Paul makes this clear in verse 29: **"Welcome him in the Lord with great joy and hold people like him in honor."** He's talking about Epaphroditus—a man who nearly died in service to the church. Paul isn't just telling the Philippians to show him basic Christian kindness. No, he's saying this man deserves *honor*. He may be coming to serve them, but that doesn't mean they should take him for granted. In other words, *treat him like you would treat me*.

Some people don't see the church as a family to love but as a system to exploit. They aren't here to contribute; they're here to see what they can get. It's like students who take advantage of a substitute teacher—ignoring the rules, doing the bare minimum, and pushing boundaries because they think no one is really watching.

Just as some church leaders mistreat members—using them to build their own platform or push their own agenda—there are also members who manipulate the church for their own gain.

-Some bounce from ministry to ministry, not to serve but to network or gain influence.

-Others only show up when there's something in it for them—a title, recognition, or even financial help—only to disappear the moment the church no longer gives them what they want.

-Then there are those who demand time, attention, and resources but never pour back into the church family. They expect others to serve them but never consider serving in return. They're takers. Mooching off the church - in an attempt to suck us dry until there's nothing left.

That's not how the body of Christ is meant to function. The church isn't a business to leverage, a program to manipulate, or a stage for self-promotion. It's a family. And in a family, we don't use each other—we love each other, serve each other, and build each other up. We may not always agree, but we don't take advantage of each other for personal gain.

So here's the challenge: **Are you truly honoring those who serve, or are you just here to be served?**

Do you appreciate the people who show up early, stay late, and give their time to make sure everything runs smoothly? Or do you just take it for granted, assuming someone will always be there to do the work?

Are you willing to roll up your sleeves and serve or do you just expect to be catered to?

Too many people treat the church like a consumer experience—come in, get fed, and leave without a second thought.

That's not biblical. The church isn't a spiritual drive-thru where you place your order, pick it up, and go about your life. It's a body, and every part of that body has a role to play.

If you're in a family, you don't just sit at the table, eat, and walk away expecting someone else to clean up. You contribute. You serve. You take responsibility. And in a healthy family, you appreciate those who do the work.

So, are you part of the family, or are you just here to consume?

If you truly see yourself as part of the family, then act like it. Show honor to those who serve. Don't take them for granted. Appreciate the ones who show up early, stay late, and pour themselves into the work. And more than that—don't just clap for them, **join them**.

A real family doesn't sit back while a few do all the work. A real family steps up. So stop waiting to be served and start serving.

Conclusion: Unlocking Joy Through Selfless Service

Bridge, we've covered a lot today. We've seen the clear difference between serving out of love and serving out of obligation. We've examined the kind of reputation a godly servant builds through faithful service. And we've confronted the reality that how we treat those who serve matters.

You've heard the call to be a *godly servant*—to serve with joy, integrity, and love. You've been reminded that this church, *your church*, is not a place to take from but a family to give to.

So here's my final challenge: **Commit to serving with the right heart.**

- If you're already serving, do it with excellence, knowing that you're not just helping people—you're honoring God.
- If you've been serving out of routine, realign your heart—let love be your motivation.
- And if you haven't yet stepped in to serve, ask God where He wants to use you. Because this church is stronger when every member plays their part.

Let's be the kind of church that shines for Jesus through our selfless service.

And as we do—**we will unlock a joy that only comes from serving God and His people.**

Let's pray...

4 points back... Servers... heart behind serving... start serving...

Closing

