

## Kindred Joy



### The Joy and Power of a Kindred Spirit

The relationship between Paul and Timothy and Paul and Epaphroditus illustrate the need that we all have for a kindred spirit or like-souled person or persons in our life. In this passage we see some of the qualities God desires for a person to be a 'kindred spirit.'

#### A. Someone to Share the Experience, Ministry and the Load

1. **A Kindred Spirit** *Phil 2:20*  
"Like-minded" *Gk: isopsuchos isos=equal and psuche (soul) literally 'equal-souled' or 'one-souled.'*
2. **Biblical examples**  
*Moses had Joshua Deut 34:9*  
*Elijah had Elisha 2 Kings 2*  
*Jesus had an inner circle of disciples Matt 17:1; Mar 14:33*  
*Aquila and Priscilla (Husband and wife) Acts 18:26*  
*Paul had Timothy (and a few others)*

*Who do you have?*

#### B. Character Qualities of a 'Kindred-Spirit'

1. **Genuine heart** :20  
*From a word that means "naturally" — this is the natural thing to do... genuinely, faithfully, sincerely*
2. **True concern/care** :20  
*To be anxious (positive) for another's needs*
3. **Seeks the interests of others** :21  
*Many around Paul were seeking (demanding) their own way—the Kindred-Soul seeks God (All for Christ)*
4. **All for Christ** :21
5. **Proven character** :22  
*Tested over time to be authentic.*

#### C. Qualities of Kindred-Service *Phil 2:25-30*

1. **Like a brother (sister)**  
*GK: Adelphos—from the womb. Figuratively: True brotherly love. Not so much to be loved—but to love another! Hence to serve another for Christ!*
2. **A fellow worker**  
*GK: Sunergos sun=together and ergon=work! Co-worker in the Kingdom! Matt 14:14 Feeding of the five thousand.*
3. **A fellow soldier**  
*The Christian life is a warfare; there are many foes to be overcome. Paul regarded himself as enlisted to make war on all the spiritual enemies of the Redeemer, and he esteemed Timothy and Epaphroditus as 'kindred-souls' who had shown that they were worthy to be engaged in so good a cause. [Standing back to back in battle]*

### Philippians 2:19-30

**:19** But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

**:20** For I have no one (A1) like-minded, who will (B1) sincerely (B2) care for your state.

**:21** For all (B3) seek their own, not the things which (B4) are of Christ Jesus.

**:22** But you know his (B5) proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel.

**:23** Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

**:24** But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

**:25** Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my (C1) brother, (C2) fellow worker, and (C3) fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

**:26** since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

**:27** For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

**:28** Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

**:29** Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

**:30** because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.