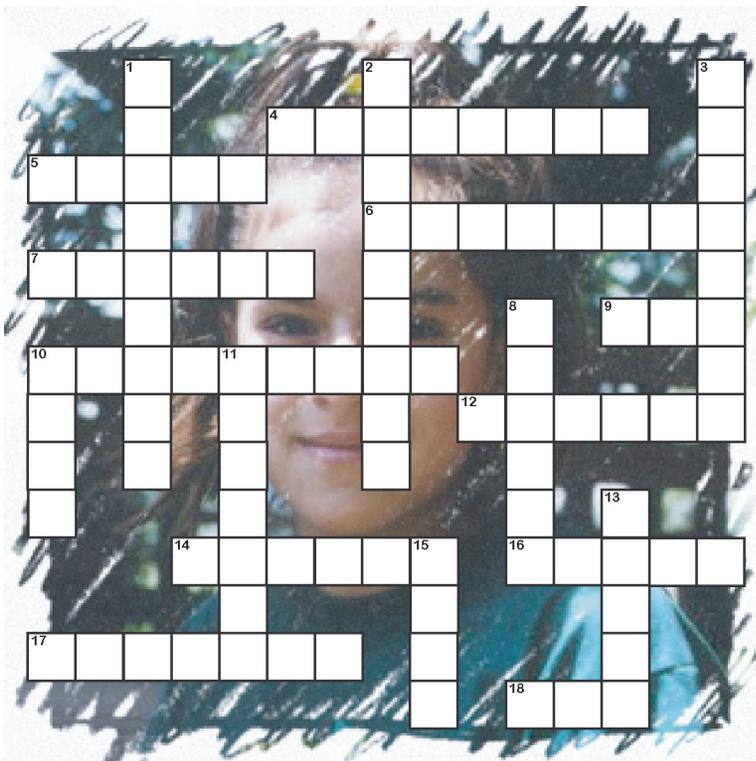


Crossword Puzzle



Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4. Paul sent Timothy to _____. | 1. Our character trait. |
| 5. If we were selfish we put our own things _____. | 2. Joy and satisfaction can be our _____. |
| 6. The apostle Paul cared for so many _____. | 3. When we _____ others' happiness and enjoyment first, the Lord Jesus will be happy with us. |
| 7. Timothy cared for other _____. | 8. Timothy was _____ to Paul and thus to God. |
| 9. _____ could care for people through Timothy. | 10. Being corporate is to _____ for others. |
| 10. The _____ of God's People. | 11. The _____ Paul. |
| 12. Paul was pleased to have Timothy as a _____. | 13. The Lord Jesus will be very _____. |
| 14. Being corporate is to care for _____. | 15. Paul was able to _____ Timothy to Phillipi. |
| 16. We can all _____ to be corporate. | |
| 17. The Lord Jesus is not here to please _____. | |
| 18. We can discover the _____ and satisfaction of caring for others. | |

Parents Initials:



The Character of God's People

- Lesson Five -

Corporate - Not Selfish Seen in the Life of Timothy

I. Overview.

Last week's lesson discussed the character trait of being single. This week we will look at being corporate. For us to be single is to be focused on one purpose. For us to be corporate is to not be just for ourselves.

Timothy was a co-worker of the apostle Paul. Paul worked very diligently in caring for the churches. Paul was pleased to have Timothy as a helper. He was confident that he could send Timothy to visit the church in Phillipi because Timothy was corporate. Paul knew that Timothy would not seek his own good. Rather he told the Phillipians that Timothy would "genuinely care for what concerns you". This meant that Timothy would care for the well-being of the saints in Phillipi.



To be corporate is to be concerned not just for ourselves but for others.

II. Memory Verse.

"But I hope... to send Timothy to you shortly... [he] will genuinely care for what concerns you."

(Phil. 2:19-20)

III. Lesson.

It is very important that we develop the excellent character trait of being corporate. When we are corporate, we are not just caring for our own things or for our own enjoyment. Being corporate is to care for others, for their well-being and for their enjoyment.



Corporateness Is An Important Trait

While the apostle Paul was caring for so many churches, he often needed much help. He had a younger co-worker named Timothy who was

very useful to him. Paul was able to send Timothy to various places because he was sure that Timothy would not only care for his own things, but would take care of all the needs of the saints. Someone who is selfish will always put their own things first. They will care the most about their own enjoyment or their own satisfaction.

Paul Sends Timothy to Phillipi

Paul cared for an excellent church in the city of Phillipi. When he wanted to know how they were doing, he was able to send Timothy to them because he knew that Timothy would care for them. Paul would not have been able to send someone to them who was selfish, or even someone who did not care for others. Because Timothy was corporate, Paul knew that it was good to send him to Phillipi. Paul told them that he knew that Timothy would “genuinely care for the things that concern you.” Timothy was very useful to the apostle Paul, and thus to God because of his excellent character. He was one who cared for other people. God could care for people through him.

Becoming Corporate

Because our character is something that can be changed and developed, we all can become corporate. We all begin by caring only for our own things. But we can all learn to be corporate. We can discover the joy and satisfaction that comes when we care for other people. When we consider other’s happiness and enjoyment first, the Lord Jesus will be very happy with us and will make sure that we are taken care of also. The Lord Jesus Himself is here to take care of all the problems of mankind and not to please Himself.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What does it mean to be corporate?

2. Why was Timothy’s being corporate useful to the Apostle Paul and to God?

3. What is the opposite of being corporate?

4. What will we discover when we care for others?

