


1 STATE: From our look last time in A Few Good Men 1, we observed that there is much confusion in our culture about what it means to be a man. Before we begin our look at Epaphroditus, let's look at what our society values in successful men.

2 STATE: A recent Harris Poll revealed the following results.

3 READ

4 ASK & DISCUSS



VERSION 2.1

A FEW GOOD MEN 2

EPAPHRODITUS—"HONOR MEN LIKE HIM"

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

Michael Jordan

AMERICA'S FAVORITES

Movie Star	Clint Eastwood
Sports	Michael Jordan
Television	Tim Allen
Music	Garth Brooks

from a 1993 Harris poll of 1,200 adults

Tim Allen

Garth Brooks

YOUR INPUT

Why are these the most popular men in our culture?

They have wealth, talent, status, image.

YOUR INPUT

What does this say about who our society embraces as models for manhood?

Our society places value on the externals (money, status, etc.), rather than on the internals (i.e., character qualities).

FOR DISCUSSION

What influence do these models have on our view of manhood?

The focus for our development can be on what we do, rather than developing who we are.

THOUGHTS

"Clearly, boys and young males today do not know what men and masculinity are really like. They are modeling themselves after cartoonish action heroes and perennially alienated kids."
 -Frank Pittman, in his book *Man Enough: Fathers, Sons, and the Search for Masculinity*

MEMORY

Philippians 2:15-24
 Timothy . . .
 genuine interest
 proved himself

THE MODEL OF TIMOTHY

1. A model of COMPASSION
2. A model of CHARACTER

6 READ

EPAPHRODITUS- "HONOR MEN LIKE HIM"

LIFE STORY—EPAPHRODITUS	PHILIPPIANS 2:25-30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly commended by Paul • Sent by the church of Philippi to Paul during his imprisonment in Rome • Delivered an offering (from the church at Philippi) which was to help Paul • Took six weeks to travel by foot the 800 miles to Rome • Returned to Philippi, bearing the epistle from Paul to the church 	<p>25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.</p> <p>26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.</p> <p>27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.</p> <p>28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety.</p> <p>29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him,</p> <p>30 because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.</p>

1 STATE: Against the backdrop of what our society values in men, God gives us clear examples of godly masculinity in Timothy and Epaphroditus. Let's quickly review what we observed about Timothy during the previous lesson.

2 ASK: What do we learn from Timothy's example?

3 SUMMARIZE

4 ASK: How did Timothy demonstrate these?

5 TRANSITION: Let's continue in Philippians 2 and examine the example of Epaphroditus.

7 READ

1 BRAINSTORM

2 DISCUSS: What did Paul mean by his use of these phrases?

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OBSERVATIONS: TRUTHS ABOUT EPAPHRODITUS

List some facts about Epaphroditus that you observe from this passage.

- Unity with Paul
- Became ill during his journey
- Committed to Paul
- Risked his life

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WORD STUDY

BROTHER
FELLOW-WORKER
FELLOW-SOLDIER

Key idea: **COOPERATION**

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WORD STUDY

RISKING

Key idea: **COURAGE**

Brother—Used 133 times by Paul (in the New Testament), it suggests the family nature of his relationship to Epaphroditus.

Fellow-worker—They had a shared task, the same assignment.

Fellow-soldier—Battling, defending, protecting, and supporting each other in battle.

Risking—Willing to take a chance. In language usage outside the Bible, risking was a gambling term that was used to describe recklessly staking everything you have on a dice roll.

3 ASK: In what ways can you observe these qualities in Epaphroditus?

4 LIST: The group's responses

5 OPTIONAL: For a further look...
Courageous—found 12 times in the Bible.
SEE: Deuteronomy 31:6,
Joshua 1:7,
1 Chronicles 28:20

COURAGE?



COOPERATION	COURAGE
<p>Seen in Epaphroditus then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared Paul's spiritual life, labors and dangers 	<p>Seen in Epaphroditus then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traveled 800 miles over rough terrain to deliver Paul's "support" check despite being ill to the point of death.
<p>If Epaphroditus were a student today here at our school, how might he demonstrate...</p>	
<p>Cooperation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He would not be a "lone ranger Christian." He would band together with other Christians involved in the cause of Christ to have the maximum impact on campus. 	<p>Courage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He would do what is right in God's eyes despite opposition. - He would risk being a "fool for Christ's sake" (do a skit in the main cafeteria to publicize an out-reach event).

1 TRANSITION STATEMENT: We make choices every day that show whether we are: 1) cooperative or clashing, and 2) cowardly or courageous. It takes humility to realize we can get more accomplished by working together. It takes courage to do the right thing instead of the convenient or self-serving thing.

Remember . . . we are male by birth, men by choice.
In choosing to become a man, we need to recognize . . .

OUR PART

Choose the right models

GOD'S PART

Philippians 1:6—Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:13—For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

CHANGING MODELS FOR MANHOOD

Reject wrong models Accept God's model

LIFE INTERSECTION

To what degree does my life presently reflect God's model of these two qualities?

COOPERATION

← Never— I did it MY way Always— I do it OUR way →

Who should I cooperate with?
How?

- Become more involved with the local Christian movement on my campus.
- Come together for group prayer times to pray for various segments of the campus.

COURAGE

← Never— Play it safe Always— Take a stand →

Where do I need to demonstrate courage?
How?

- Initiate this week with guys who may seem antagonistic to the Gospel.

SHAKESPEARE

"Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death but once."
—from *Julius Caesar*

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

2 THOUGHTS
Just for them

3 LIFE APPLICATION

REMEMBER: Becoming a man of **compassion, character, cooperation** and **courage** is a two-part process: it involves **OUR PART** (choosing right models) and **GOD'S PART** (changing us from the inside out).