



**April 14<sup>th</sup> Sermon Questions**  
**The Paragons of Your Life**  
Philippians 2: 19-30

Icebreaker: Is there someone whose actions or words have significantly influenced your life's direction?

Discussion Questions: **Read** the scripture verses above.

1. How are Christian friendships and relationships different from other friendships and relationships?
2. Why do you think Paul includes this personal “travelogue” here in the middle of the letter?
3. Paul is a paragon (i.e. a person to follow and mimic) for Timothy and Epaphroditus, and he seems to be commending them as examples for the Philippians as well. Who has been a paragon for you in your spiritual journey?
4. What about these two men does Paul mention in this passage that makes them a worthy example to be followed by others?
5. In verses 20-21, Paul echoes what he said in 2:4 when he says that Timothy is "genuinely concerned for your welfare," but that others "seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ." What are your concerns and interests right now? Do you care about the welfare of others and the things of Jesus, or are you only interested in your personal well-being and your own things? Why do you think that is the case?

6. In his sermon, Justin mentioned that when we show concern for the people of Jesus, we are showing concern for Jesus. How so? Can you think of any Scripture passages that support such a statement?
7. Who are you learning from and who is learning from you right now? If you can't think of anyone for either question, why do you think that is the case?
8. What are some challenges personally that you face in terms of building a more Christian community and becoming brothers and sisters, co-workers, and fellow soldiers with other followers of Jesus?
9. How does the gospel give us unique resources for 'community' to work well?
10. How could you be more proactive in developing Christian friendships and relationships? Who is someone you could seek out to learn from? Who is someone you could seek out who may want to learn from you?
11. Jesus is not just a paragon or like any other religious leader, self-help guru, etc. How so, and why does that matter?
12. What's your takeaway from our discussion tonight? What do you need to do this week to follow Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, and/or participate in the mission of Jesus?