

EXTENDING YOURSELF

Definition of the word '**extending**' from the Oxford Dictionary:

To make larger. Straighten or to spread out. Hold something out towards someone. To offer or make available. To cause someone or something to exert the utmost effort

- How do these actions or qualities relate to us?
- How can we extend ourselves towards other people and their concerns and needs?

Philippians 2:21 “For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”

This describes the kind of society we live in.

Where so many people live by their selfish ambition and put their own interests, opinions and goals first, at the cost of other people.

Jesus is the greatest example of someone extending themselves for the sake of others.

Mark 10:45 (niv) “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to **serve** and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45 (kjb) *For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto but to **minister** and to give His life a ransom for many.*

The word '**minister**' in the Greek means: *To be an attendant, that is to wait upon.*

Jesus faithfully ministered to people, but He served people in the deepest way possible by giving up of His own life as a ransom for the sin of the world.

In **Mark 10:42-44** Jesus called all the Disciples together and said to them:

*“You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43: **Not so with you,** instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant 44: and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all”*

Jesus tells the Disciples that **His purpose for coming** was to serve **and** to give up His life.

The Apostle Paul had the extraordinary ability to extend himself for others.

Philippians 2:17 *”But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, **I am glad and rejoice** with all of you.”*

Paul was **glad** that his suffering **resulted** in others being built up in Jesus.

Paul was training Timothy.

Philippians 2:19-20 “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20: I have **no one else like him** who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.

Paul was confident that Timothy would extend himself with concern and care by serving those in the church at Philippi.

In *Romans 16* Paul writes a list of names of believers in the church in Rome who loved the church and loved to serve God’s people.

Romans 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me too.

The mother of Paul’s friend Rufus looked after her own children, but also had a concern for others, including the Apostle Paul.

She probably opened up her house to be a mother to others also.

We should be continually affected by Jesus’ example of One who did not come to be served **but to serve.**