

Heroes of the Local Church

Meet the Heroes

Stephanas and his household

Mentioned in 1:16 the starting point of the church there

Of the first converts in Asia

Probably members of the church of Corinth

All his family

His slaves and servants

Fortunatus

Nothing is known of him beyond this reference

But the church of Corinth knew him

Achaicus

Nothing is known of him beyond this reference

But the church of Corinth knew him

They were leaders

They devoted themselves = they set themselves aside for the service of the saints

They were committed to serve the body of Christ

Time

Treasure

Talent

They worked hard, to the point of exhaustion

I can't do that... Why?

"To submit to such as these"

The Corinthians were urged to submit to their leadership

Follow their example, let them lead you in these matters

Learn from their example; let them be your teachers.

Be a learner

Many are too independent to follow a leader

Leaders are to be distrusted, some think

Teams that don't bond don't build

They may have had "an agenda"

All Christians need examples

Older ones

Younger ones

Middle aged ones

Examples to set

When the chips are on the line

How you respond in a business meeting

And after a business meeting

Not suggesting you shouldn't speak your mind. But how you do it and what you say paints a picture of you for a long time.

How you respond to a call to service in your local church

Let the young bucks do it...

Let the old fogies do it...

I won't do it because they didn't vote my way

These people left a legacy to follow that we read about 21 centuries later

They were servants

They supplied what was lacking

The focus is not on material items, although it probably included them

Suggests they traveled to Ephesus to minister to Paul

Suggests they sacrificed

The focus is on relationships. When people don't have people, there is a lack.

People need people.

You need people who love the Lord

People who love the Lord need you

When Paul was in jail in 2 Timothy, He wanted God's Word (2 Tim 4:13b) and God's people (2 Tim 4:9-11).

They were refreshers of spirits

To cause to collect new strength

To set someone's mind at rest

To raise one's spirits

Be a VEP not a VDP

Type in "sour puss" and your face comes up as an illustration

These people, who are not in it for the recognition, nevertheless should be recognized.

For their personal encouragement (encouragers need encouraged)

Why would you not do this?

"I wouldn't want it to go to their head."

"That's just not my style"

Many never think about giving a word of encouragement.

There is no good reason to not be a refresher! Be a refresher!

Determine that you will learn to do this.

Repent of your selfish thinking and example.

What you do comes back to you

To point them out as examples for others to follow...

All of us need real live people to see how to do it.

So what?

Be a hero in your local church.

Not for personal gain

But...

For the gain of others

So that all may see and be encouraged to follow your example

So that Christ's church will be blessed