

1 Corinthians 16:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.

Analysis

Let no man therefore despise him—Exoutheneō (ἐξουθενέω, "despise, treat with contempt") suggests the Corinthians might reject Timothy due to his youth or unimpressive presence. The same verb appears in Luke 23:11 for Herod's soldiers mocking Jesus. Church factions valuing eloquence, status, and forceful personality (qualities they perceived in Apollos or Peter but found lacking in Paul—2 Corinthians 10:10) might dismiss Timothy as insignificant.

But conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me—Propempō en eirēnē (προπέμπω ἐν εἰρήνῃ, "send forward in peace") means providing travel support and cordial farewell, not hostile dismissal. Timothy's mission was to report back to Paul about Corinthian conditions. **For I look for him with the brethren**—Paul expected Timothy to return with companions, perhaps the delegation mentioned in verse 17.

Historical Context

The command not to despise Timothy parallels 1 Timothy 4:12, where Paul tells Timothy "Let no man despise thy youth." Apparently Timothy faced chronic credibility challenges, perhaps exacerbated by Paul's own unpopularity in some quarters. Ancient Mediterranean culture highly valued age, rhetorical skill, and forceful personality—attributes Timothy apparently lacked.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What makes churches susceptible to despising faithful ministers who lack impressive credentials or charisma?
2. How does Paul's defense of Timothy challenge celebrity culture in modern ministry?
3. What does 'conducting someone forth in peace' look like in contemporary church practice?

Interlinear Text

μή	τις	οὖν	αὐτὸν	ἐξουθενήσῃ	προπέμψατε	δὲ	αὐτὸν	
no	man	therefore	him	Let	conduct	but	him	
G3361	G5100	G3767	G846	G1848	G4311	G1161	G846	
ἐν	εἰρήνῃ	ἵνα	ἔλθῃ	πρός	με·	ἐκδέχομαι	γὰρ	αὐτὸν
in	peace	that	he may come	unto	me	I look for	for	him
G1722	G1515	G2443	G2064	G4314	G3165	G1551	G1063	G846
μετὰ	τῶν	ἀδελφῶν						
with	G3588	the brethren						
G3326		G80						

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 4:12 (Parallel theme): Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Acts 15:33 (Peace): And after they had tarried there a space, they were let go in peace from the brethren unto the apostles.

1 Corinthians 16:6 (Parallel theme): And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go.

1 Corinthians 16:10 (Parallel theme): Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.

Titus 2:15 (Parallel theme): These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

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