

Philippians 2:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

Analysis

Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation (προσδέχεσθε οὖν αὐτὸν ἐν κυρίῳ μετὰ πάσης χαρᾶς, καὶ τοὺς τοιούτους ἐντίμους ἔχετε, prosdecheste oun auton en kyriō meta pasēs charas, kai tous toioutous entimous echete)—Prosdecheste ("receive, welcome") is present imperative. En kyriō ("in the Lord") qualifies the reception—as fellow believer, not mere courtesy. Meta pasēs charas ("with all joy") commands celebration, not mere acceptance. Paul anticipates potential misunderstanding: Epaphroditus returns before completing his mission (attending Paul throughout imprisonment); some might see failure.

Tous toioutous entimous echete ("hold such in honor/reputation")—toioutous ("such ones") generalizes beyond Epaphroditus to all like him. Entimous ("honored, esteemed, precious") calls for high regard. In honor-shame culture, recognizing servants was countercultural. Paul ensures Epaphroditus receives hero's welcome, not criticism. The command to honor such workers ("hold in reputation") applies generally to faithful, self-sacrificing ministers.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman culture honored victors, not servants; conquerors, not sufferers. Paul demands honor for Epaphroditus, who nearly died serving. This reflects Christ-hymn values (2:5-11): those who humble themselves are exalted; servants deserve honor. Churches sometimes dishonor faithful workers who return 'early' from

missions or ministry due to health or circumstances. Paul preempts this injustice by commanding joyful, honoring reception.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you 'receive in the Lord with all joy' (prosdechesthe en kyriō meta charas) those returning from ministry?
2. Who are the 'such ones' (toioutous) in your church deserving honor but rarely receiving it?
3. How can you practically 'hold in reputation' (entimous echete) sacrificial servants this week?

Interlinear Text

προσδέχεσθε	οὖν	αὐτὸν	ἐν	κυρίῳ	μετὰ	πάσης	χαρᾶς
Receive	therefore	him	in	the Lord	with	all	gladness
G4327	G3767	G846	G1722	G2962	G3326	G3956	G5479
καὶ	τοὺς	τοιούτους	ἐντίμους	ἔχετε			
and		such	in reputation	hold			
G2532	G3588	G5108	G1784	G2192			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 16:18 (Parallel theme): For they have refreshed my spirit and your's: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.

1 Timothy 5:17 (Parallel theme): Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (References Lord): And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

Romans 16:2 (References Lord): That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

1 Corinthians 16:10 (References Lord): 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.

2 Corinthians 10:18 (References Lord): For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.