

“The Value Relationships in the whole Body of Christ.” - Colossians 4:7-16

1. The Examples of the Messenger Bearers – Col. 4:7-9

a. Paul wants the Colossians to know their circumstances through Tychicus.

- i. We see Paul saying 3 times in these 2 verses that Tychicus is going to tell the church his circumstances. What Can we conclude by this?
- ii. Why it is important for the church to know his circumstances?
- iii. “When we know, then we can care. When we don’t know, we can’t care.”

b. Paul wants them to be encouraged by Tychicus.

- i. Have you ever been in a situation that just never seemed to get any better?
- ii. Although he does not say which encouragement, it seems that he is referring to a good report that Tychicus is giving that Paul is doing well in prison and that the ministry is still going forward in Rome.

c. The coming of Onesimus shows the importance of relationships

- i. What is it about his presence that would communicate his value of relationships?
- ii. How could Paul call Onesimus a faithful brother?
- iii. How does our ability to reconcile conflicts demonstrate the value of others?

2. The Examples of the Paul’s Traveling Companions – Col. 4:10-14

a. They sent Personal Greetings because they wanted the Colossians to know they cared.

- i. This is strange in our society send greetings, but we do something similar when we tell someone to give another person a hug from us. It is our way of saying that they are important to us and we care about them.
- ii. There are even some cultures that would feel slighted, if I was traveling and a person’s name came up from back home, but I didn’t have greetings from them.

- iii. Although, most of Paul's traveling companions had never met the church in Colossae, they still wanted the church to know that they cared.

b. Mark, the cousin of Barnabas

- i. Who is this? Acts 13:5 -
- ii. However, there was a time when Paul didn't think very highly of Mark.

Why?

1. Acts 13:13

2. Acts 15:36-41

- iii. And yet, here was John Mark, traveling with Paul again and with him in Rome. No doubt the relationship had been mended.

1. As Paul says in 2 Tim. 4:11 where he calls him "helpful to me."
2. Matthew 18:21-22

c. Paul wants them to know Epaphras' care and concern for their well-being.

- i. Why might there were some potential hard feelings toward Epaphras in Colossae?

- ii. Epaphras is always wrestling in Prayer for them – nothing says, "I care about you" more than hearing that someone is praying for you. (and what he was praying for them?)

1. Praying that

2. Praying that

3. Praying that

- iii. Epaphras is Working hard for them and their region

3. The Examples of the Regional Greetings – Col. 4:15-16

- a. ***Greeting the church at Laodicea and the church in Nympha's house*** - Paul shows that he values all the churches in the area even though he hadn't been to any of them as far as we can tell.
- b. ***Edification for and from the Laodicean letter*** - They were benefiting from this Laodicean church's journey to work out their salvation. In turn the Laodicean church was benefiting from the Colossian church's journey to work out their salvation.