

What Friends Are For

Colossians 4:7-13

Christian friends support one another unconditionally

A. Friends Share with One Another (4:7-9)

1. Based on common background (4:7)

Tychicus = Fortuitous

Acts 20:4, Titus 3:12, 2 Timothy 4:12

2. Based on common goals (4:8)

Philippians 2:20-21

3. Based on common ties (4:9)

Onesimus

Philemon 10-12

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B. Friends Accept One Another (4:10-11)

1. Regardless of circumstances

Aristarchus

Acts 19:28-29, Acts 27:1-2

2. In spite of past disagreements

Marcus = John Mark

a. Left the work - Acts 13:5-13

b. Was an item of disagreement – Acts 15:36-41

c. Still can be essential

2 Timothy 4:11

3. When most have gone their own way

Justus

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C. Friends Pray For One Another (4:12-13)

1. The example - Epapahras

Colossians 1:7

2. The extent to which we should pray

a. Starts with understanding there is a need

b. Develops into determination to continue in prayer

c. Is evident to those around us

d. Becomes a passion

What Kind Of Friend Are You?

Proverbs 17:17

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Proverbs 17:17

**A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for
adversity.**

What Friends Should Do

Colossians 4:14-18

Christian friends make others feel that they belong

I. Friends Greet One Another (4:14-15)

Colossians 4:14-15

14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

I. Friends Greet One Another (4:14-15)

A. Tale of two greeters (4:14)

1. Luke, the beloved physician

a. Beloved by Paul because beloved of God

Colossians 3:12

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

b. Beloved by Paul because of his faithfulness

2 Timothy 4:11

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

I. Friends Greet One Another (4:14-15)

A. Tale of two greeters (4:14)

2. Demas, the one who forsakes Paul

a. Paul's first mention

Philemon 1:24

Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

b. Paul's second mention (v 14)

c. Paul's third mention

2 Timothy 4:10

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

I. Friends Greet One Another (4:14-15)

B. The greeting (4:15)

a. Encourage fellow believers (Wish well)

Philippians 4:21

Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

b. To go beyond the church at Colosse, Laodicea

c. To the church in Nymphas' house



II. Friends Encourage One Another (4:16-17)

Colossians 4:16-17

16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

II. Friends Encourage One Another (4:14-15)

A. The letters to be shared (4:16)

1. This letter

2. Another letter (Ephesians?)

B. Encouragement sent to Archippus (4:17)

Five responsibilities of Christian ministry

1. A personal responsibility - “And say to Archippus”

2. A demanding responsibility - “Take heed”

3. A specific responsibility –

“to the ministry which thou hast received”

4. A spiritual responsibility - “in the Lord”

5. An objective responsibility - “that thou fulfill it”

III. Friends Remember One Another (4:18)

Colossians 4:18

The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

A. Regardless of circumstances

Philippians 4:11

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

B. With the *charis* of God

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

How Are We Friends To One Another?