

## We Need Each Other

*Part 10 of the Pre-Eminence of Christ*

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Text: Colossians 4:7-18

Paul clearly realised that the a Christian life wasn't meant to be lived alone. Many times in his writings, you will see him mention by names those who he has laboured along side of in the Lord doing the work of the ministry. In this passage, we see Paul mention ten specific friends. To help us understand this group of friends better, and perhaps to see ourselves better and which type we may fall into as we seek to sharpen others and encourage them in the Lord.

### 1. Faithful Friends

#### A. Tychicus- 4:7-8

- He delivered Paul's letters to the Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon!
- He would fill them in on Paul's situation (how he was doing)
- He would comfort their hearts!

#### B. Aristarchus 4:10

- He stayed with Paul no matter what
- He was also imprisoned with Paul

#### C. Justus 4:11

- Changed from Jesus to Justus probably either to respect the name of Jesus or to reach those in the Roman Empire

#### D. Luke 4:14

- Big part of the ministry – wrote book of Luke and Acts
- Physician who ministered to Paul as needed

#### E. Nymphas 4:15

- Church met in his home and was willing to be used

### 2. The Fervent 4:12-13

Epaphras:

- Started church in Colossae
- Fervent in praying for them

### 3. The Faltering vs. 17 (Archippus)

### 4. The Fickle vs. 14

- Not much mentioned here about Demas
- 2 Tim 4:10 tells us that he forsook Paul having loved this present world
- You cannot serve two masters

### 5. The Forgiven

#### A. Onesimus vs. 9

- Runaway slave that found Christ through Paul's ministry
- In Philemon, Paul urged Philemon to receive him as a brother in Christ (Philemon 1:12)

#### B. Mark vs. 10

- In Acts, Paul became angry when Mark abandoned them and left
- 2 Tim. 4:11, Paul considers him a valuable asset to the ministry

#### Questions:

1. Have you ever known a brother or sister that is led away from the Lord and the ministry because of the negative pull of closest friends? How can we make friends and influence others outside for Christ while still staying encouraged in the Lord?
2. Of these categories listed, which kind of friend might best describe you? What would you most like to see change?
3. Read Prov. 27:17. How does one "sharpen the countenance" of a friend? Ask God to make you the kind of friend you need to be to encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ to be faithful.

*Prayer: "Thank you, Lord, for restoring fellowship with You, my God and Saviour. Thank you that you also restore relationships with those around me and have give me a spiritual family as part of my discipleship process. Help me to be the faithful friend I need to be. Help me to surround myself with faithful, godly friends that may spur me on to serve. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."*