



Reflecting on Your Friends

Colossians 4:7-18

Listen! Your friends (and even your enemies) are in your life by God's _____ and for His _____.

Question: Is it possible that God has a purpose for every friend in your life? Are you responding to your various friends in the variety of appropriate ways?

Lessons from the people in Paul's life:

Tychicus. People who walk with us faithfully for a long time must be _____.

Onesimus. People whom we help redeem must be trusted, affirmed, & _____.

Aristarchus. People who are willing to suffer with us must be _____.

Mark. People who abandon us must be _____, accepted, and affirmed.

Jesus (Justus). People who comfort us must be _____ for help.

Epaphras. People who are devoted to Christ and to us must be _____.

Luke. People who work behind the scenes for Christ and us must be recognized.

Demas. People who desert us must be _____, loved, allowed to rebuild trust.

Nympha. People who give their resources to help the church must be _____.

Archippus. People who are not being diligent must be _____.

Core Truth: Our friends are in our lives by God's intention and for His purposes...we must relate to them in the appropriate ways.

Walking Papers

“Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.”

Core Truth: Our friends are in our lives by God’s intention and for His purposes...we must relate to them in the appropriate ways.

Each day this week please **choose one** of the people in Paul’s life (listed below) and reflect on a friend you have who matches that description—asking yourself if you are relating to this person in the right way.

- **Tychicus.** People who walk with us faithfully for a long time must be cherished.
- **Onesimus.** People whom we help redeem must be trusted, affirmed, & released.
- **Aristarchus.** People who are willing to suffer with us must be relied on.
- **Mark.** People who abandon us must be restored, accepted, and affirmed.
- **Jesus (Justus).** People who comfort us must be called in for help.
- **Epaphras.** People who are devoted to Christ and to us must be valued.
- **Luke.** People who work behind the scenes for Christ and us must be recognized.
- **Demas.** People who desert us must be forgiven, loved, & allowed to rebuild trust.
- **Nympha.** People who give their resources to help the church must be thanked.
- **Archippus.** People who are not being diligent must be admonished.

How would you rate your own relationship style based on these elements of God-honoring, brother/sister-building relationship from 4:7-18?

- Loving: 7, 9, 14
- Communicating: 7, 8, 9
- Being faithful: 7, 9
- Serving: 7, 7, 12
- Encouraging: 8
- Developing family closeness: 7, 9, 15
- Suffering together: 10
- Working together: 11
- Comforting/giving relief/giving consolation: 11
- Greeting: 10, 11, 14, 14, 15, 18
- Redeeming after failure: 9, 10
- Reconciling after alienation: 9, 10
- Laboring in prayer/interceding for each other: 12
- Helping each other to know God’s will: 12
- Helping each other to mature: 12
- Developing deep concern for each other: 13
- Sharing resources with each other: 15
- Sharing Scripture with each other: 16
- Admonishing each other to diligence: 17
- Remembering each other’s circumstances: 18
- Giving/sending grace: 18