

Respond / Reflect:

Which of the ten people/ten characteristics in Colossians 4:8-17 do you most identify with? Which one of the ten do you most aspire to be like?

How are you intentionally fostering the virtue of encouragement for others (kids, friends, life group, co-workers, neighbors) in your own life? In your sphere of influence?

When things start getting tough in the different areas of your life, how would you rank your loyalty quotient?

When Pastor Doug talked about reconciliation, he mentioned the importance of the Matthew 18 principle. What is the Matthew 18 principle and why is it important that we use it?

In what ways are the cares and enticements of the world ensnaring you/us?

What story is God writing in your life?

What is one thing that you are taking away from our journey through Colossians?

“Try It!”

Which of these themes from Colossians 4:8-17 catches your heart? Encourage, reconciliation, loyalty, redemption, comfort, prayer, sacrifice, perseverance, inclusion, complete. Implement this word into your life this week. Share with someone what happened as a result.

Read through the book of Colossians once a week during this series. Consider using different translations.

Memorize Colossians 3:17:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Father, thank you for the stories you have written in the lives of our fellow believers that mentor, encourage, and sustain us throughout our lives. Thank you, for continuing to write your story in our lives. May people increasingly see Jesus in and through us. Increase our hunger for and our commit to you, your community, and your mission in your world. In the name of the exalted Christ. Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Hospitality

During the month of November, we encourage you to host an outdoor neighborhood fellowship gathering during the afternoon on Sunday, November 21 to foster hospitality ([Romans 12:13](#)) and fellowship within your neighborhood. One simple way you could this is by gathering for cider and doughnut holes around an outdoor firepit in your driveway. Don't want to host alone? Partner with someone else from church or a neighbor in your community to host this fellowship gathering. Please sign up in the back of church if you are planning to participate so that Laura can connect with you for further assistance.

Colossians 4:7-18
New International Version

Final Greetings

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant^[a] in the Lord. ⁸ I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our^[b] circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. ⁹ He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

¹⁰ My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews^[c] among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³ I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

¹⁷ Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Colossians 4:7-18
The Message

⁷⁻⁹ My good friend Tychicus will tell you all about me. He's a trusted minister and companion in the service of the Master. I've sent him to you so that you would know how things are with us, and so he could encourage you in your faith. And I've sent Onesimus with him. Onesimus is one of you, and has become such a trusted and dear brother! Together they'll bring you up-to-date on everything that has been going on here.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ Aristarchus, who is in jail here with me, sends greetings; also Mark, cousin of Barnabas (you received a letter regarding him; if he shows up, welcome him); and also Jesus, the one they call Justus. These are the only ones left from the old crowd who have stuck with me in working for God's kingdom. Don't think they haven't been a big help!

¹²⁻¹³ Epaphras, who is one of you, says hello. What a trooper he has been! He's been tireless in his prayers for you, praying that you'll stand firm, mature and confident in everything God wants you to do. I've watched him closely, and can report on how hard he has worked for you and for those in Laodicea and Hierapolis.

¹⁴ Luke, good friend and physician, and Demas both send greetings.

¹⁵ Say hello to our friends in Laodicea; also to Nympha and the church that meets in her house.

¹⁶ After this letter has been read to you, make sure it gets read also in Laodicea. And get the letter that went to Laodicea and have it read to you.

¹⁷ And, oh, yes, tell Archippus, "Do your best in the job you received from the Master. Do your very best."

¹⁸ I'm signing off in my own handwriting—Paul. Remember to pray for me in this jail. Grace be with you.