

When Christians Greet and Pray for the Church

(Colossians 4:10–18, *in the context of verses 1-9*)

WHAT IS TRUE, AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO?

Our new life in Christ is the basis for lasting friendships and unity that cross racial, national, financial, cultural barriers and even our grievances. The fullness of Christ floods us with opportunities for fellowship with other believers and furtherance of the Gospel. Paul concludes (4:1-18) by naming ten friends in the ministry, offering greetings from himself and his coworkers, providing final instructions, and sealing the letter with his own signature. He models faithfulness and calls us to follow His example of faithful fellowship in Christ.¹

✓ **FELLOWSHIP THAT KNOCKS DOWN BARRIERS (v.10–14)**

- **Three Jewish Friends in Christ (v., 10, 11)**

- A. Aristarchus, Mark, Jesus (Justus).

- **Three Gentile Friends in Christ (v.12, 13, 14)**

- A. Epaphras

- B. From Luke and Demas

✓ **FELLOWSHIP THAT GOES BEYOND GRIEVANCES (v. 10)**

- Reconciliation with Mark (Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37-39, 2 Tim. 4:11)
- Paul mentions Demas, despite his eventual desertion (2 Tim. 4:10)

✓ **FELLOWSHIP THAT IS SELFLESS, SINCERE, AND CARING**

- **Greetings and Parting Counsel to Friends (v. 15–17)**

- A. Greetings to believers in the surrounding areas

- B. Call for the exchange of letters; it is a circulated letter.

- C. Call for Archippus to complete his ministry.

✓ **FELLOWSHIP THAT IS AUTHENTIC AND OFFERED TO EVERYONE THROUGH BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST**

- **Paul's Signature**

- A. It was written with his own hand to ordinary people like us.

- B. It was written while he was in prison (Remember!)

- C. The Blessing from Paul. ("Grace be with you. Amen.")

APPLICATION:

Love God. Love Others. Do not allow sin to destroy or disrupt Christian unity and fellowship. Christian family goes beyond "knowing God." It involves a true relationship with Christ that produces love for others despite human frailties.

¹ David Pao, *Colossians and Philemon*, Exegetical NT Commentary: (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012), 305.