

Entrusting Others To Do the Lord's Work.

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. (ESV)

In Colossians chapter 4, we get a glimpse of Paul's leadership style. Paul was not afraid to let others work with him. Paul was not afraid to give ministry responsibility to others. Paul was not afraid to give others the freedom to play a part in ministry. Paul was not so prideful to try to do ministry alone. He was a man who saw the potential in others. He saw the spiritual giftedness of others, and he gave people opportunities.

GODLY LEADERS ENTRUST OTHERS TO DO THE LORD'S WORK.

But the question we want to ask is: What kind of people should godly leaders look for?

In our set today, I see 5 Characteristics of trustworthy workers for the Lord.

Characteristic #1 - Trustworthy workers are lovely brothers/sisters. **4:7a**

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother

Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter. If he was going to get this letter out to Colossae, he needed to recruit some help. Paul's choice man for the job: Tychicus. When it came to delivering inspired letters of God, written by the apostle Paul, Tychicus was Paul's right-hand man.

Paul loved Tychicus. He was a brother to Paul. When you mentioned Tychicus's name it brought a smile to Paul's face. Alistair Begg said it makes me wonder, "What comes to mind when people hear my name?"

Characteristic #2 - Trustworthy workers are faithful ministers. **4:7b**

He is a beloved brother and faithful minister.

Paul needed someone who was consistent and loyal - someone he knew would get the job done. Paul needed a faithful minister. Being faithful means being someone who can be relied upon. We say God is faithful. We can put our trust in God. He will not let us down, ever. God's

people should be characterized by the same idea. Tychicus was faithful.

The term minister is the word *diakonos* in Greek. We get the word deacon from it. A deacon is one who serves. He was a servant. That's how Tychicus viewed himself - a servant. There's humility involved in that term. There's an attitude of looking after the needs of others. There's an attitude of putting others before yourself.

He took things to the next level. He didn't just say, I'll get the job done. He said, how can I help? That was his attitude, and he was faithful in this. He was consistent. Day after day, week after week, year after year. He was there. He was available. He is ready to help.

Characteristic #3 - Trustworthy workers are fellow servants in the Lord. **4:7c**

and fellow servant in the Lord.

Paul viewed Tychicus to be on the same team. Paul didn't view him as lower but on the same plane as Paul.

Tychicus was a fellow servant in the Lord. Tychicus was not there to serve Paul. He was there to serve Christ. That was his focus. That was his motive. He was doing it for the Lord.

The person who's really doing it for the Lord is one who is in the Lord - in Christ - someone who has personally and privately trusted/believed in Jesus Christ to save him/her. It's a sad thing when a church puts someone in a leadership role, or gives someone a ministry responsibility who is not even a believer - someone who is not in the Lord.

Characteristic #4 - Trustworthy workers are in tune with the vision. **4:8-9**

I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

I find it interesting that Paul said he wasn't going to write about everything going on with him. He knew Tychicus and Onesimus would accurately communicate everything that needed to be said. They were in tune with the vision of the ministry.

I believe Onesimus was the kind of man who caught the ministry vision of Paul rather than disrupt it. He did not disturb things. He helped.

Characteristic #5 - Trustworthy workers are an encouragement to others. **4:8**

I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts

I believe something that plagues many in the ministry is discouragement. Ministry is full of ups and downs. We need people who will be encouragers. It's not just those in full-time ministry, Tychicus came to encourage the whole church. We need each other.

The term encouragement there refers to comforting others and strengthening them - to put new life into someone - to give them strength- to enhance their courage to press on.

Trustworthy workers are an encouragement, not a burden. How much new heart have you put into others lately? How much strengthening of others have you done this week? Are your words building others up? Are you truly a help to others? Have you made life more enjoyable for a fellow Christian this week?

Paul trusted that when Tychicus showed up there in Colossae, the people were going to be strengthened by his presence, his words, his attitude, his mindset, and his help.

Godly leaders entrust others to do the Lord's work, but the question that I'd challenge you to ask yourself is: Am I the kind of person Godly leaders are looking for?

Am I a lovely brother? Am I a faithful minister? Am I a fellow servant in the Lord? Am I in tune with the vision? Am I an encouragement?

God is looking for workers not based on their capabilities, but based on their character.