

LESSON 6

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE BODY

COLOSSIANS 4:2–18



1 Imagine that you are putting together a team to accomplish a goal (sports, business, church, etc.). Explain the criteria you would use for choosing your team members.

2 How is the church like a team?



Read Colossians 4:2–18 and the following notes:

☐ 4:2 ☐ 4:6 ☐ 4:7 ☐ 4:10 ☐ 4:12 ☐ 4:14 ☐ 4:15 ☐ 4:18

3 List all of the various forms of personal support and encouragement given in this passage.

4 What do the people whom Paul mentions in his closing remarks have in common besides their faith in Jesus Christ?

Paul ended his letter by giving final instructions to the church and sending his greetings to others. This showed how much Paul valued relationships in the church. Some of those mentioned were Paul's fellow workers, people with whom he had served side by side. There is something unique about our relationships with our fellow workers. They should be so genuine and honest that others are attracted to us. Many people long to have those kinds of relationships. Who are your fellow workers? How do you treat them?



5 What should characterize our relationships with other believers?

6 Why is intercessory prayer such an important part of church life?



7 Why should we challenge our fellow believers to attempt even more for the Lord?

8 How does your church support and encourage its members? its ministry staff and missionaries? What improvements would you like to see?

9 Who has been the greatest encouragement in your growth as a Christian? What did he or she do?



10 Identify at least one believer who could benefit from your prayers and encouragement this week. Pray for that person; then phone, write, visit, or find another tangible way to demonstrate your concern.

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A Christians know that prayer is important, and yet many have an inconsistent or unsatisfying prayer life. What prevents us from praying more effectively? How can we improve?

B Paul refers to Mark rather warmly here. Yet his relationship with Mark hadn't always been positive. What do you think happened to improve their relationship? What lesson can we learn from this?

C What effect would Paul's request to "remember my chains" (4:18) likely have had on the recipients of this letter? How could they remember Paul's chains? What Christians are in chains today? How can we remember them?

D What do we learn about the nature of prayer in 4:2–4 and 4:12?

E What do you think Paul meant by his instruction to "make the most of every opportunity" (4:5) in our contact with non-Christians? What about the suggestion to "live wisely" (4:5)?