

## Strengthening Your Marriage

Colossians 4:7-15

Icebreaker-friends related

Prayer

Read Col 4:7-15

**Verse 7-9** Tychicus and Onesimus come to Colosse to update them on Paul's situation.

Q? (Background) Does anyone know any details about the personality/character of these guys?

Or what type of friendship they had with Paul?

Basics questions

Q? Who's idea was it for them to come to Colosse?

Q? Why did Paul send them?

~So they would know facts (no gossip)

~To encourage them

Other verses:

\*Acts 20:4

\*Titus 3:12

\*2Timothy 4:12

Verses 10-11 Paul describes some other people (Artstachus, Mark, Jesus(Justus)) who want to "say hello" to the Colossians. They were the only Jews, the rest were Gentiles.

Q What is it that Paul mentions about his relationship with them?

~only Jews among fellow workers for the kingdom of God

~ They are a comfort to him!

Discuss Mark-left Paul

Sometimes our friends leave but later redeem themselves

Verses 12-13 Talk about Epaphras.

Q Does anyone remember any info about Epaphras?

Q? What is he constantly doing?

~Praying for them- not just praying but wresting for them!!!

Q What does he pray for?

~Stand firm in will of God

~Mature and fully assured in will of God

DO WE PRAY THESE THINGS FOR OUR FRIENDS/SPOUSE?

What amazing friendships Paul must've had!

Q Do you have a friend like this? Who talks to others about you in a GOOD way? Does he/she encourage/lift you up?

Q Do you as a COUPLE have friends like this that you hang out with together?

Q Do you "allow" your spouse to have friends?

Personal example of when first married-I enjoyed doing things together. (maybe because I didn't know everyone in the church like he did?)

If you don't have a friend like this, take the initiative. Be the one to call.

FRIENDSHIPS TAKE WORK!

Other verses:

\*Proverbs 27:17

\*Ecc 4:9-12

John 15:13-15

GOOD BREAK POINT

Applications

Do we have encouraging Christian friends? Are we encouraging THEM?

Are we praying for one another?

**Next week**

Would anyone like to share what God is doing in your life?

Remember it is only when you reflect examine your life and think about it that you can actually really SEE Him at work. Helps you grow!!

Challenge:

Spend time with a friend and allow your spouse to spend time with a friend this week!

One Hour is all you need!!