

## **Strengthening Christian Relationships Ephesians 6:21-24**

### **Introduction**

NJFK—adult sized armor—armor has to fit you; you have personal responsibility, but you fight as a unit alongside fellow soldiers

**21** So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. **22** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

**23** Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

1. Personal Communication—to Inform and Encourage (21-22)
2. Prayer for God's Blessing (23-24)

### **1. Personal Communication—to Inform and to Encourage (21-22)**

**21** So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. **22** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

Written communication—this letter (Paul was careful to keep up with people.)

In-person communication—sent Tychicus with the letter, so Tychicus helped with both.

Beloved brother

Faithful minister in the Lord

Will tell you everything—how I am and what I'm doing; how we are; encourage your hearts

Tychicus

Among the men who traveled with Paul back to Jerusalem with the relief offering.

Acts 20:4

Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

Also carried a letter to the Colossian church.

Colossians 4:7-9

<sup>7</sup> Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. <sup>8</sup> I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, <sup>9</sup> 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.

Was with Paul between his two imprisonments (possibly his fourth missionary journey—Spain?).

Titus 3:12

When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

Was with Paul in his final imprisonment.

2 Timothy 4:12

Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus.

The ministry of Tychicus has impacted us and our church, along with everyone who has read Ephesians or Colossians over the last 2,000 years. A brother loved and reliable, a servant to Paul, the church, and to us. Where would we be without the epistles Paul entrusted him to deliver?

### **Applications**

- In what ways can you communicate with other brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage them in the Lord and to give them a window into your life?
- As a beloved child of God, in what ways do you serve the needs of others faithfully for the sake of Jesus Christ?

## **2. Prayer for God's Blessing (23-24)**

**23** Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **24** Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Gifts from God the Father and the Lord Jesus the Messiah

Peace—Jesus made peace through His cross, reconciling us to God, and Jew and Gentile as one

Love—love is the outflow of that reconciliation

Faith—with faith—probably referring to the faith they already have, and is praying for love to grow from it, as always happens with healthy Christianity

Grace—the foundation of it all; favor we have not earned and do not deserve, given as a gift from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

All who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible—love that does not end, but continues, with nothing to spoil it or mar it; no prejudice against others, but in harmony with all who belong to Jesus

### **Applications**

- For whom do you pray to receive these divine gifts?

- In what ways is your life characterized by these qualities?

## **Conclusion**

1. Personal Communication—to Inform and Encourage (21-22)
2. Prayer for God's Blessing (23-24)

Keep in touch. Communicate in writing and in person. Pray. These practices strengthen your brothers and sisters and the bond among you.