

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Colossians 4:7-8
Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Deuteronomy 6:4
Genesis 2:18
Colossians 3:12-13
John 13:35
Ephesians 6:21-22

September 13, 2026

In our last official week in the book of Colossians, Paul reminds us of the importance of community. Paul gives us a list of names he wants the Colossian church to welcome and pray for. Paul’s ending is reminding us that the quickest way to exalt God with our mouth is to love Him with our heart, and to see what He is doing in the lives of others.

What strikes you about what you’ve witnessed in Christian community?

The people Paul lists at the end of Colossians had suffered some horrible things (one was a runaway slave, for example). They experienced significant ups and downs of life and were able to see God’s work through them. We should praise God knowing that He will sustain, grow, and walk with us through any circumstance. We don’t need to pretend that taking the Gospel out is easy; taking the Gospel out is hard, but we are strengthened by God’s Spirit and living life with one another.

Who do you “do life” with? Why is this important?

The Biblical concept of living in community with others relates to binding together. The church in Colossae may have only numbered a couple dozen or so when Paul writes this letter, and yet Paul says these connections are a comfort to him. Binding together is not new; it goes back to Solomon in Ecclesiastes where he tells us a few things:

- ♦ **Two are more effective than one.** *Ecc 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil (work).* People who work together share resources and get more done.

- ♦ **In times of trouble, we can lift each other up.** We need people to have community with—especially during hard seasons.
- ♦ **Companionship brings deeper connection.** Intimacy in friendships is deeper than what our culture aspires toward. Sometimes, when no words will help, presence is what you need.
- ♦ **Binding together is protective.** We ask, “How can we confront this situation together?” Those with layers (church, family, friends) are better insulated against trouble. True community crosses ethnic, monetary, political, and other barriers. In this passage, six individuals sent greetings (through Paul) from Rome to Colossae. Three were Jews and three were Gentiles!

How have you seen the Gospel cross ethnic, monetary, and political barriers?

Language, national animosities, and differences in culture had divided the world—in Paul’s day and today. Because of the work of Jesus, all these people were meeting, loving, and working together willingly and in unity. From the very beginning, Jesus demonstrated that this was a natural implication of the Gospel.

In today’s world, why do some refuse fellowship with others? As followers of Jesus, how can we bridge that gap?

Jesus crossed forbidden barriers. Paul does this in how he reaches out to people all throughout the empire. We must ask Jesus to open our eyes and our hearts to those around us. In God’s kingdom, love of Jesus and understanding the Gospel transforms everything. The greatest argument for God is His grace in the lives of those He has touched, and how they love one another in community.

Let us be that community.