

This week's study is a little different than our normal gatherings. This week I want your group to focus on the relationships and support they get from one another and how that can be enhanced as a small group. We therefore will spend a little less time this week in the Word of God and more in the sharing of life together.

This week's memory verse: Colossians 1:3-4

We always thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.

### Read Colossians 4:7-18

In this passage of scripture we need to examine the purpose of Paul's writing this final greeting. He is encouraging brothers and sisters in Christ toward fellowship and unity of purpose.

In this passage I find six things that are present in the early Church of Jesus Christ. I also believe these six things need to be present in the current Church of Jesus Christ which we are part of.

1. Oneness in the communication of our life in Christ
2. Oneness in request for prayer for one another in Christ
3. Oneness in service to Christ
4. Oneness in diversity in Christ
5. Oneness in acceptance of one another in Christ
6. Oneness in our daily walk and Spiritual growth in Christ

❖ To start out your discussion today, I would like to encourage you to share with your group what God is doing in your life. By asking this simple question we begin to watch and pray and encourage one another in Christ. So,,

### **WHAT IS GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE?**

Go around and ask the question: What is God doing in your life?

This is a question I used to use in small group regularly to get people to begin to open up and share about their life. Asking, "What is God doing in your life?" makes people begin to think and realize that all the things happening in their life are not some accident or coincidence but rather is more likely that God moving them in a direction or trying to get their attention for one purpose or another.

1. In this section of Colossians we also see that the Church is meeting in homes. How does meeting in a home (your small group) increase the opportunity for these six areas (bullets) to become a part of your life in Christ?

Let people share and reinforce how a home group grows oneness in the body of Christ. We all need to be connected and it needs to be authentic and open.

2. Which of these areas (communication of life, prayer requests, service, diversity, acceptance, and Spiritual growth) is your small group strongest in?

Use this to drive a discussion on what is most valued purpose of your small group. Let this be a time of affirmation.

3. Which do you need to work at the most?

This question could help you and the rest of your group, think about areas of focus that you need to enhance. Don't allow yourself or your group to get down because there is a weakness. Rather let this conversation build unity in purpose and commitment to a team effort of building oneness.

4. What has been the most impactful lesson you have grasped from Paul's letter the Colossians?

Ask people to think back over the past eight weeks discussions and what they have learned from Tim's messages and by reading through Colossians and share what has impacted them most. As time allows, it may give you opportunity to revisit a verse or two and reinforce those important truths.

In this passage from Colossians Paul is sending word about what is going on in His life and in the life of others. The Church is thanking God for what they have been hearing (1:3-4). In order to allow us to thank God and also share what God is doing in your life, I would like you to consider sharing your story with me, Pastor Dennis. If you have something that God has done in your life that is worthy of praise, I am asking you to compose and email and send it to me or come speak with me in person so that we may thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ when we pray for you.

I would like you to read the note in the box above to your group out loud and encourage them to share their story with me. How or if we can share this with the church is yet to be determined on a person by person, story by story basis but I would love to hear from those willing to share and those who have a great praise for what God has already done and is doing in their life.