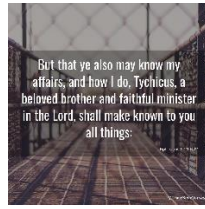


## Ephesians series: A Caring Connection



June 3, 2018

**Ephesians 6:21-24**

**21 But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: 22 whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and *that* he might comfort your hearts. 23 Peace *be* to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace *be* with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.**

**Key- We long for and need to be cared for by people.**

Everyone wants to be cared about and everyone at times feels alone and like no one really cares about them. **Christianity should by far be the most caring community in the entire world.**

1 Corinthians 16:19-24

2 Corinthians 13:11-14

Philippians 4:20-23

1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

Hebrews 13:22-25

1 Peter 5:12-14

The Ephesians obviously had a desire to know how Paul was doing and cared a lot about Paul and how he was doing in prison.

No cell phones, no internet connections, no social media, no Facebook or twitter etc.

True friendship is caring for people. (not adding a friend on Facebook) People don't care what you know until they know that you care.

A common fleshly response to dealing with people is **I DON'T CARE!**

## 5 Aspects of Caring for Others

### ➤ Knowing what people are doing

1 Corinthians 12:25; 2 Corinthians 8:16

Philippians 2:3,4

What are you interested in? What do you do for fun?

How can I get involved with what you like to do?

Philippians 2:20 and compare with 4:6

### ➤ Knowing how people are doing

Caring for how people are doing. Unusual for someone to sincerely ask how you are doing.

Colossians 4:8

Tychicus- a beloved brother and

a faithful minister in the Lord

**Tychicus** (**Tuchikos** from **tugchano** = meet by chance, fortuitous, chance, fortunate) **was Paul's disciple whose name means "Chance"**. Tychicus was one of Paul's disciples and was first mentioned as a companion of the apostle during a portion of Paul's return journey from the third missionary tour ([Acts 20:4](#)) where Paul identifies him (with Trophimus) as a **native of Asia**. **Tychicus** was with Paul when the apostle wrote the prison epistles from Rome (during his first imprisonment), and he was with him for a time when he wrote in a later imprisonment to Timothy ([2 Timothy 4:12](#)).

In Paul's letter to Titus, the apostle clearly expresses his confidence in the ability of Tychicus to take over for Titus in Crete which would allow the latter to come spend time with Paul:

"When I send Artemas or **Tychicus** to you, make every effort to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there." ([Titus 3:12](#))

➤ **Being loving**

Mimics God's love- actually is God's love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Larry Coy message about 1 Peter 2:19

People are not easy to deal with!

➤ **Being faithful**

1 Corinthians 4:2, 17; Colossians 1:7

What does a faithful person look like?

Perseverance, patience, good attitude, forgiving. Can be counted on.

➤ **Speaking words of blessing**

Comfort- Acts 11:23; 16:40

1 Corinthians 16:15; 2 Corinthians 7:6, 7, 13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

satan also tempts us to become discouraged when we see other believers going through times of trial. Realizing the Ephesians' deep concern about his imprisonment, Paul told them, "I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory" ([Ephesians 3:13](#)). He tempts us to give up when we cannot see results from our service to the Lord. When the Galatian believers faced that problem, Paul told them, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary"([Galatians 6:9](#)).

His purpose:

How he was and to comfort the  
Ephesians

Peace

Love

Faith

# GRACE

**Peace** would garrison their hearts in every circumstance of life. **Love** would enable them to worship God and work with one another. **Faith** would empower them for exploits in the Christian warfare.

Peace and love go hand in hand ([4:1-3](#)). God's love for us is the example for our love for one another ([5:1](#), [2](#)). Our homes should radiate the self-sacrificing love of Christ between husbands and wives, and parents and children ([5:22-6:4](#)). In the church, we must work at building and maintaining loving relationships between one another ([4:31](#)-, [5:1](#), [5:2](#)).

## Summary and Review

The great theme of Ephesians is the eternal purpose of God, to sum up all things in Jesus Christ. The book falls into two halves. Chapters 1-3 reveal our exalted position with Christ in the heavenly places, all because God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world. Chapters 4-6 show our experiential walk with Christ in this world, as we stand firm against the evil forces of darkness in the heavenly places. Our position in Christ and our walk in this world as we stand victoriously against these evil forces demonstrate God's eternal purpose, to sum up all things in Christ. At the heart of this practical walk is that we get along in unity in the church and in the home, which is the basic unit of the church.

**Paul ends the way he began** - by pronouncing a blessing, which is his way of helping (exhorting, encouraging) the Ephesian "holy ones" ([hagios](#)) (and us, **beloved** of God = [1Th1:4](#)-) to **walk** ([peripateo](#)) (**Before Christ** = [Ep 2:2](#)-; **After Christ** = [2Co5:17](#), [Ep 2:10](#)-, now **In Christ** = [Ep 4:1](#)-, [Ep 4:17](#)-, [Ep 5:2](#)-, [Ep 5:8](#)-, [Ep 5:15](#)-) in every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ ([Ephesians 1:3](#)-) that they (and we) might truly (in this present earthly life, not just in eternity future) inherit their inheritance in (union with, [oneness](#) of the new covenant with) Christ (cp Jesus' desire for us - [Jn 10:10b](#)).

**Grace** ([5485](#)) ([charis](#)) is a beneficent disposition toward someone, and specifically in the Biblical context is God's attitude toward human beings resulting in an outflow from His throne of grace ([Hebrews 4:16](#)-) of His inexhaustible kindness, favor, helpfulness, care, help, goodwill.

**Key-** **We long for and need to be cared for by people.**

**One-minute take-away**