

THE GOSPEL AS A GROUP EFFORT Colossians 4:7-18

The only way it is possible to have one mind is to have the mind of God derived from the unity of the Spirit of God, a unity which comes only when believers find the will of God and give themselves unselfishly and unstintingly to its fulfillment.

- John F. Walvoord

1) Gospel work binds us together

- Unity in spite of status

- Unity in spite of heritage

2) Gospel work blesses the body

- Those who encourage us

- Those who bear our burdens

- Those who labor for us

3) Gospel work blends unique gifts

- The history of ministry

- The call to ministry

I. Getting to Know You

1. Is there anything you wish would come back into fashion? Why?

II. Into the Bible

2. In Colossians 4:9, Paul says that he is sending Onesimus as one of the messengers carrying the letter. Read Philemon 1:1-25 to find out more about Onesimus. What character traits does Paul see in him that make him a good choice to bring the letter? What might make Paul hesitate to send him?

3. Luke, mentioned in Colossians 4:14, wrote a large part of the New Testament, yet we know very little about him directly. Read the introductions to his books in Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-2. What can you infer about Luke from those verses? Why was he a suitable companion for Paul on several of his journeys and in prison?

III. Application

4. What ministries do you carry out that serve to bring the church together in its overall ministry?

5. Share some of the practical blessings you have received through serving in ministry, either in the church or outside of it.

IV. For Families

6. Talk with your children this week about serving in the church. Share how you use your spiritual gifts. Discuss what their gifts might be. Maybe you could find a service project that you could do together as a family.