

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, November 12, 2023

**How to Be a Next-Level Leader
A Study of Colossians 4:7-18**

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Think of a leader you admire. This can be someone from the past or in the present. This can be someone in business, sports, church, or a civic organization. You don't have to mention the person's name, but share some of the qualities that you think make (or made) them a good leader.

Today, we'll look at the closing verses of Paul's letter to the Colossians. In these random personal greetings and reminders, we discover some characteristics that make people good leaders.

First: Love People

Paul clearly loved the people he led and the people he worked with. We see this in the interest he showed in the lives of others and also in the way he expressed his need of their help.

- ❖ Read Colossians 4:12-13. What do these verses reveal about Paul's appreciation for his coworkers? How is this an expression of love for them?
- ❖ Read Colossians 4:7-8 and 4:18. What do these verses reveal about how Paul let others know of his need for them? How is this an expression of his love for them?

Why is loving those you lead and work with an important quality for good leadership?

Second: Share the Load

Complete the following verses: “Tychicus is a f_____ servant in the Lord” (Colossians 4:7). “My f_____ prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings” (Colossians 4:10).

We tend to idolize leaders who seemingly accomplish great feats single-handedly. What do the descriptions in verses 7 and 10 reveal about how Paul shared the load and the credit for his work?

Read Colossians 4:16. How is Paul sharing the load of communicating with all his many churches?

Why are we sometimes reluctant to share the load with others? How can we overcome this reluctance?

Third: Support Your Fellow Workers

Read Colossians 4:12-13 and 4:16. How did Paul stand with his fellow workers and support them in front of others?

Describe a time a leader stood by you and publicly supported you. How did that make you feel? Did it make you want to work harder? Did you feel “seen”? Protected?

Fourth: Challenge Your Fellow Workers

Read Colossians 4:17. It appears Archippus had stalled out as a Christian leader.

- ❖ What are practical steps you can take to inspire and provoke a stalled-out coworker to reengage with the mission?
- ❖ Is confronting a stalled-out coworker a contradiction of Points One and Three (“love” and “support”)? Explain your answer.

Fifth: Know Your Business

Read Colossians 4:12. Paul said the business he and his fellow workers were engaged in was “that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”

- ❖ How might that phrase serve as a good summary of all we’ve learned in these five months of studying Colossians?
- ❖ Discuss what “next level” you’ve reached in your walk with Christ across the last 5 months.

Close with praise reports and prayer requests.