

FRIENDS • 6 (6 MUTUAL)

—CHRISTUS VICTOR WEEK 28—

Colossians 4:7-11 (NIV)

I. PAUL'S _____

⁷Tychicus will tell you all the news about me.
He is a dear brother,
a faithful minister
and fellow [slave] in the Lord.

⁸I am sending him to you for the express purpose
that you may know about our circumstances
and that he may encourage your hearts.

⁹He is coming with Onesimus,
our faithful
and dear brother,
who is one of you.

They will tell you everything that is happening here.

II. PAUL'S _____

¹⁰My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings,
as does Mark,
the cousin of Barnabas.
(You have received instructions about him;
if he comes to you, welcome him.)

¹¹Jesus, who is called Justus,
also sends greetings.

These are the only Jews among my co-workers
for the kingdom of God,
and they have proved a comfort to me.

BOTTOM LINE

_____ **the** _____ **web** _____
that _____ **designed** _____.

...by evaluating your level of _____.

<i>Poorly Connected</i>				<i>Well Connected</i>
1	2	3	4	

...by brainstorming about how you can strengthen it this week.

I could strengthen it this week by:

On a scale of 1 to 10 how committed are you to actually doing this?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

On the Network of Friendships We See in this Passage

(James Dunn, *Colossians*, 274-75)

Of considerable importance for the character and vitality of the first Christian churches was the fact that there was a network of personal friendships and relationships knitting them together. They were bound together not simply by a common experience of faith, but by the friendships of family and relations of the like-minded, of common interests and pursuits, of host and guest hospitality perhaps extending over many years. We should not think that such greetings came only through Paul, or only on the occasion of Paul's letters. Rather, we should assume that these friendships existed and thrived quite independently of Paul and that those here mentioned were simply taking the opportunity given by the journey of Tychicus and Onesimus to reaffirm and celebrate these friendships with the little touches of thoughtfulness and concern which keep friendship bright and fresh. It is one of the too little appreciated values of Paul's letters that they attest to the vitality of these early churches precisely in their character as a system of overlapping and interlocking circles of friendship, sustained, no doubt, as is well exemplified here (4:7, 9, 10, 15-17), by regular contact and communication.