

Colossians 4:7-9 7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. (ESV)

In light of Christ's person & work, care about the realities of your fellow believers, growing your connection to the ministers & members of the Body of Christ

Christian relationships are rooted in who Christ is, what he has done, and what he is making of us. [...beloved brother... fellow servant... faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you.]

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Colossians 1:3-4 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, **The Christian Faith is deeply personal... but not extremely private. [Tychicus will tell you all about my activities... Onesimus... They will tell you of everything that has taken place.]**

The Psalms - deeply personal.

Work toward deeper relationships with the other members & ministers of the body of Christ. [...I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts...]

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for...

Understand the diversity of backgrounds and walks within the body. [Tychicus... beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord... Onesimus... our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you]

Luke 7:36 & ff. - Forgiven much... love much...

The letter to Philemon is being delivered by the hand of Tychicus... at this same time... according to some...

Matthew Henry: The meanest circumstance of life, and greatest wickedness of former life, make no difference in the spiritual relation among sincere Christians: they partake of the same privileges, and are entitles to the same regards.

Matthew Henry, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996), Col 4:7-18.

Give greater heed to the sacraments in the body-life of the church.

Q. 35. How is the covenant of grace administered under the New Testament?

A. Under the New Testament, when Christ the substance was exhibited, the same covenant of grace was and still is to be administered in the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper; in which grace and salvation are held forth in more fullness, evidence, and efficacy, to all nations.

Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25; 2 Cor. 3:6-18; Heb. 8:6, 10, 11; Matt. 28:19.

Q. 154. What are the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of his mediation?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to his church the benefits of his mediation, are all his ordinances; especially the Word, Sacraments, and prayer: all which are made effectual to the elect for their salvation.

Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:42, 46-47.

Q. 162. What is a Sacrament?

A. A Sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ in his Church, to signify, seal, and exhibit unto those that are within the covenant of grace, the benefits of his mediation; to strengthen and increase their faith, and all other graces; to oblige them to obedience; **to testify and cherish their love and communion one with another**; and to distinguish them from those that are without.

Gen. 17:7, 10; Ex. 12:1-51; Matt. 28:19; Matt. 26:26-28; Rom. 4:11; 1 Cor. 11: 24-25; Rom. 15:8; Ex. 12:48; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 10:16; Rom. 4:11; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3- 4; 1 Cor. 10:21; Eph. 4:2-5; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:11; Gen. 34:14.

Q. 174. What is required of them that receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the time of the administration of it?

A. It is required of them that receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, that, during the time of the administration of it, with all holy reverence and attention they wait upon God in that ordinance, diligently observe the sacramental elements and actions, heedfully discern the Lord's body, and affectionately meditate on his death and sufferings, and thereby stir up themselves to a vigorous exercise of their graces; in judging themselves and sorrowing for sin; in earnest hungering and thirsting after Christ, feeding on him by faith, receiving of his fulness, trusting in his merits, rejoicing in his love, giving thanks for his grace; in renewing of their covenant with God, and love to all the saints.

Lev. 10:3; Heb. 12:28; Ps. 5:7; 1 Cor. 11:17, 26-27; Ex. 24:8; Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:29; Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:26; 1 Cor. 10:3-5, 11, 14; 1 Cor. 11:31; Zech. 12:10; Rev. 22:17; John 6:35; John 1:16; Phil. 3:9; Ps. 63:4-5; 2 Chron. 30:21; Ps. 22:26; Jer. 1:5; Ps. 1:5; Acts 2:42.