

Living In Such A Way That Others Thank God for You

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. (Philemon 1-7)

When others see you coming are they thinking, "I Thank My God for You!" or "*Lord Please Help Me Handle This Person!*" As followers of Christ Jesus we should live in such a way that others Thank God for Us!

They will if we are first a **Dear Friend**. When Paul addresses Philemon he calls him a "*Dear Friend*". Someone who feels like family, but not genetically related. Someone who you can trust without fear of being hurt! We can be open and real, knowing *they love us and want the best for us*. To have DEAR friends, you have to *be willing to be a DEAR friend*. We must *allow God to use to minister to others!* We have to be dear friends to the area around this church! We have to be willing to *Invest Our Time, Our Talents, Our Gifts, Our Service and Be Witness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ RIGHT HERE where the Lord has placed us!* *When we are being dear friends others will thank God for you!*

Second, others will thank God for you if you are a **Co-Workers for Christ Jesus**. Philemon was a very committed worker in Colossian church. Not someone who occasionally occupied a pew! He was extremely faithful to Serve and Do His Part! Imagine EVERYONE making & keeping commitment's instead of excuses! Imagine EVERYONE using their gifts to the glory of God! I give Thanks for the Fellow Workers who have Gone Before! If not for their faithful and Fruitfulness we would not be here and many would not have received Christ as Lord! Like them and like Philemon We Must ALL Be Fellow Workers in the Church!

Third, others will thank God for you if you are a **Faith Sharer** (5-6) *Paul says of Philemon "I Hear about Your Faith in the Lord Jesus...."* Philemon's faith wasn't a silent faith. It wasn't a hidden/secret faith. He lived his faith and others could see it. It touched the life of other people. Lives were growing closer to Jesus because of his faith. *Philemon's faith in God was worth sharing*. I believe yours is as well. Your faith is meant to share not keep to yourself! *You are a vessel – a tool to be used!*

To be on someone's thanksgiving list, we've got to get out our pews, get beyond the walls of the church and go mingle with the world and lead someone to the Love Jesus. If you do, I guarantee you they will Praise and Thank God for you, just as you praise God for those instrumental in your coming to Know Jesus. Does anyone thank God for you? They will if you have and share your faith!

Fourth, others will thank God for you because you have a **Refreshing and Loving Spirit** (5-7). Philemon had a Refreshing Love! When you left his presence you felt better. Like a breath of fresh air! Philemon's AGAPAE love was the kind of love that not only brought joy to Paul's life, but *great joy*. His life was better for having known him. Philemon's love was an encouragement to Paul. His love was a faith building love. An infectious love that was able to remove all the bad things of life, or at least help place them in their proper perspective. I pray that we all continue to strive to have this kind of infectious love. For if we have refreshing Loving Spirit others Will Thank God for You!

This Thanksgiving and all year round I pray that we are all seeking to live in such a way that others are thanking God for us!