

The Mission of Christ

Col 4:3-4

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Background

Beloved Christian author Henri Nouwen observed that "most Christian leadership is exercised by people who do not know how to develop healthy, intimate relationships and have opted for power and control instead." It is a commentary as accurate as it is unfortunate, one made even more tragic by its contrast with the leadership exercised by the Apostle Paul. Paul's leadership was characterized by a relational vulnerability that invited those he led into his hopes, wants, and needs -- but also into his ministry. Join us this Sunday as we listen in on Paul's conversation with the Colossian believers and consider how to support our own leaders in prayer.

Sermon Text: Col 4:3-4 (NIV)

³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What stands out to you the most from this sermon?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Last Thursday was Ascension Day. What does Ascension Day mean? What does it mean to you?
- b. God grants us "the dignity of participation" in his purposes and plans. How do you respond to this statement?
- c. Eugene listed 5 prayer requests that Paul, a leader of the early church, makes in his letters. I've listed them below. How does this list encourage you?
 - How does this list challenge you?

- d. “There is no self-sufficiency in the Christian walk.” This is an important truth of our faith. None of us walks this journey alone. How can you make a habit of praying for our leaders, both at PBCC and in the global church? (This is another encouragement to join a prayer group at PBCC where prayers are made every week for both the leaders of PBCC and the leaders of the global church).

Paul’s Prayer Requests

1. Clarity and Boldness in ministry
2. Effectiveness in ministry
3. Deliverance from resistance
4. Edification in fellowship
5. Godliness and Holiness in character