



July 24, 2016
Celebration · 9:00 am
Pastor David Mitchell

What Makes Life Better Together Ephesians 6:21-24

Become the person that makes life better together. Ephesians 6:21

"But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you."

- He stays with Paul regardless of his circumstances: in prison.
- He shares in the ministry even if it is costly. Acts 20:1-6
- He is willing to do any task to serve the Lord. 2 Timothy 4:12
- He is one you can trust with all the details of your life. Colossians 4:7-9

Serve in a way that makes life better together. Ephesians 6:22

"I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts."

- Provide information that helps connect you with other people.
"so that you may know about us"

- Provide encouragement that helps other people.

"comfort" - para= beside, kaleo = to call. To come alongside and call to a person according to their need.

(see examples in Digging Deeper on the back side)

Enjoy the benefits of life that is better together. Ephesians 6:23-24

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love."

- A life of peace with each other.
- A life displaying love and faith from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- A life of grace and incorruptible love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

"incorruptible" = like the resurrected imperishable eternal body. 1 Corinthians 15:42, 50, 53-54

Digging Deeper

Deepen your knowledge and experience of how rich and secure your salvation is. Ephesians 1

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved”

Seek the Lord in prayer when you may lose heart in difficult times.

Paul did not want his friends in Ephesus to lose heart when he suffered. So he offers this prayer for their encouragement in Ephesians 3:13-21.

- Approach God as your loving father in humility and expectation of His help.
“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father”
- Ask to be strengthened and experience the fullness of Christ’s love to encourage your heart. Ephesians 3:15-19
 - Breadth—I can never wander outside His love.
 - Length—I can never run ahead of His love.
 - Height—I will always be covered by His love over me.
 - Depth—I can never run out of His love.
- Trust Him to do more than you could ever ask or think. Ephesians 3:20-21

Learn healthy patterns in relating to other people. Ephesians 4:25-32

- Remember: Your words reveal your heart. Proverbs 4:23, 24
- Move from any words that lie or deceive others. Ephesians 4:25
“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.”
- Move to words that encourage and love others. Ephesians 4:29
“Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

Grow into mature relationships and marriages based on a submissive attitude. Ephesians 5:20-31

- Relationship of mutual submission and value for each other. Genesis 2:18 We need a “helper suitable”
- Relationship of the right kind of love for each other. Ephesians 5:25-30
 - Love that is sacrificial. *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.*
 - Love that is sanctifying. 1 Corinthians 7:14
 - Love that is sensitive to love another in a way that makes them feel loved, not that makes me feel loving.
 - Nourish and cherish.

Remember, we live in a spiritual war so be strong in Christ with the full armor of God. Ephesians 6:10-20

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

Next Steps:

1. **Consider becoming a member of Calvary Church to fully commit to being part of the church family.** The next membership process is at the Discover Calvary class on Sunday, August 7 from 12:30-3:45 pm in Fireside Room. calvarylife.org/discover
2. **Pray through your list of people you want to be Better Together with that are more difficult for you.** Initiate reconciliation with anyone in our church family with whom you have unresolved conflict.
3. **Seek prayer after our service to experience the power of Christ to help in your needs.**