



## Be Missional! Following in the Footsteps of Epaphras • Part 1

Lesson 8 • Colossians 4:12-13

Colossians 4:7-18 reminds us that our ministry to others is the overflow of our relationship with Christ. 12 people are mentioned by name. Each one sought to **make their mark for eternity**. We are **following in the footsteps of those who fulfilled their ministries**, so we too can make our mark for eternity!

### Where Are You on the Path to Becoming a Fully Devoted Christ Follower?

- I **KNOW CHRIST** in a personal and real way—as a follower and not a fan.
- I am **GROWING in CHRIST** through being in community with other Christ followers.
- I am **SHOWING CHRIST** by loving, serving, and forgiving others in the church and community.
- I am **GOING with CHRIST** by sharing the gospel locally and globally.

### What Does a Christ Follower Do When Others Have Done So Much for Them?

#### Follow in the Footsteps of Epaphras ~ Colossians 4:12-13

Be \_\_\_\_\_: Do for Others What Has Been Done for You in Christ!

**A Man Who Made His Mark:** Epaphras = Short form of *Epaphroditus* = “Belonging to Venus”

- Epaphras is mentioned **three times** in the Bible, though there is another man with a similar name in the NT.  
*Colossians 1:6-8; 4:12-13; Philemon 23*
- Epaphras was from Colossae (like Onesimus) and was used of God to plant the churches in the Lycus Valley.
  - Epaphras is mentioned by Paul at the **beginning** and **end** of this letter. *Colossians 1:6-8; 4:12-13*
  - Epaphras was a **whole-hearted** and **well-balanced** Christ follower.
  - Epaphras is praised by Paul in ways that **only a few others** were.

Like **Tychicus**, he is a **trust-worthy** Christ follower—Paul uses the same 4 descriptions of both men! *Colossians 1:7; 4:7, 12*  
Like **Aristarchus**, he **freely surrendered his rights** to serve Christ as a “**fellow-prisoner**” with Paul. *Colossians 4:7; Philemon 23*  
Like **Paul and Timothy**, he is a “**slave of Christ Jesus.**” *Galatians 1:10; Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1*

### How Did Epaphras Make His Mark When He Was Raised in Such a Pagan Culture?

He did \_\_\_\_\_ what had been done for him in Christ!

**Make Your Mark:** Do for Others What Has Been Done for You in Christ!

#### 1. Be Missional: Know Christ *and* Help Others to Know Him. *Colossians 1:3-8*

“But as for you, continue in what you have **learned** and have **firmly believed**, knowing from whom you learned it.” *2 Timothy 3:14*

- Evangelism is sharing the good news about **who** Christ is and **what** He has done, is doing, and will do for sinners like us!
- We need to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ with others just as someone shared Christ with us!  
*Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

*"Where are you in your spiritual journey?"*

*"If you died right now, do you know for sure that you would wake up in heaven? What do you base your confidence on?"*

*"When did your relationship with Christ become personal?"*

*"Has any one ever shown you from a Bible how you can know God in a personal and life-changing way?"*

*"I sense you are searching for answers to life's struggles. I have something I would like for you to read. Would you be willing to read it? It will only take you a few minutes and then if you have any questions we can talk about it."*

## 2. Be Missional: Grow in Christ and Help Others to Grow in Him. *Colossians 1:7-9*

- Discipleship is sharing the good news about **who** we are in Christ and **what** we are to do for Christ with those who are saved like us!

*Discipleship is learning to follow Christ in order to reproduce more Christ followers.*



- We need to help others \_\_\_\_\_ just as someone helped us grow in community with other believers.

*"Here is what God is teaching me through my time with Him...."*

*"One of the best things someone ever did for me was help me learn how to read my Bible and understand what I was reading."*

*"I would love for you to come with me to my GrowGroup."*

*"Has any one ever taught you how to pray? Could I share with you how I pray?"*

*"Do you have practical plan for spending time with God on a regular basis?"*

## 3. Be Missional: Show Christ and Help Others to Show Him. *Colossians 1:7-8; 4:12-13*

*"He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit." Colossians 1:7-8*

- Ministry is loving, serving, and forgiving others just as others have loved, served, and forgiven us in Christ.
  - 1) Ministry is about \_\_\_\_\_ others and not ourselves. *Colossians 1:7; 4:13*
  - 2) Ministry is about \_\_\_\_\_ our rights to serve others. *Colossians 1:7; 4:12; Philemon 23*
  - 3) Ministry is about \_\_\_\_\_ our agenda to advance the cause of Christ. *Colossians 1:7; 4:12; Philemon 23*

- We need to help others \_\_\_\_\_ Christ just as someone helped us show Christ by serving our church and community.

*"You should check out my ministry team sometime!" "Would help me (fill-in-blank)?"*  
*"I can see you have a passion for (fill-in-blank) you should try serving in (fill-in-blank)."*  
*"Have I ever told you about my first time to try serving others in ministry?"*  
*"Have you started praying about where you are going to serve in our church?"*

**4. Go with Christ and Help Others to Go with Him to All Peoples.** Colossians 1:7; 4:12-13

*"For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis."* Colossians 4:13

- Missions is partnering with God and others to **plant, establish, and multiply local churches** among all peoples!
- We need to help others go with Christ \_\_\_\_\_ just as someone came to us with Christ locally!

*"What do you think of when you hear the word 'missions'?"*  
*"Have you ever traveled outside of the country?"*  
*"Have I ever told you about the first time I ministered in another country/culture?"*  
*"Have you ever personally met a missionary?"*  
*"What is your greatest obstacle or fear about praying or giving or going on missions?"*  
*"Would you come with me to our World Outreach Celebration October 24-28?"*

**Make Your Mark: Follow in the Footsteps of Epaphras and Be Missional!**  
*Be unashamed to do for others what has been done for you in Christ!*



**Get INFORMED!** 🌍 **Be IMPACTED!** 🌍 **Get INVOLVED!**

**"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to EVERYONE who believes..."** Romans 1:16