

## How Is the Lock Down Affecting You?

Paul was a hard-nosed leader. We remember his rejection of Mark on the second missions trip (Acts 15:39). The old Apostle did not mince words when it came to Judaizers (Philippians 3:2f). He even names believers who went wayward (2 Timothy 1:15). The specially chosen apostle pointed out the hypocrisy of Peter on occasion (Galatians 2:11-14), but when it came to those dearest to him he showed a special kind of care.

That care showed itself in giving medical advice to Timothy (1 Timothy 5:23). Paul was especially grieved for Epaphroditus in his illness (Philippians 2:25-29). He encouraged saints to welcome back a wayward believer (2 Corinthians 2:5-11). The imprisoned apostle affirmed Phoebe the deaconess (Romans 16:1). The apostle who needed an introduction (Acts 9:26-27) would often, in his letters, introduce fellow servants of Jesus Christ. (Romans 16:21; 1 Corinthians 16:12-20; Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:10-17; & Titus 3:12-14)



Where am I going with this study of the ministry of Paul? Paul demonstrates a compassionate caring while at the same time calling a spade a spade. It is tempting for folks in ministry to become lopsided. We can see everything as a conspiracy and take up arms to denounce them. Another reaction is to fret to the degree that we give up encouraging folks around us.



In December I am asking a couple sharp gals to join the Pastor Clusters for our Venture Church Network. They are my pastor's wife and my associate pastor's wife. I trust that their experiences of living in parsonages during Covid will spark conversations in our homes. I have seen a toll in parsonages coming from the stress of divided churches and boards; frustrations of not meeting in person; having little if any children's and youth ministries or even funerals. There is the compounding of doubts concerning what is happening to the flock.



My aim for December is not to have all the answers. Rather it is to begin the conversation of how the 9 month lock down is affecting our pastors and families. Be sure to check the list of area clusters and join one that fits your schedule. See you on ZOOM!

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