

## **Ephesians 6:21–22**

### **“The Power of Believers' Ordinary Faithfulness and Brotherly Love”**

*God is often pleased to do extraordinary things through Christians' ordinary faithfulness and brotherly love.*

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Ephesians chapter six are. Course in this afternoon as verses 21 and 22.

Let's pray.

Our father in heaven we come. One more time asking for your help. To give us right hearts by which to hear your word read. And opened. And we pray that you would be glorified in it even as you do us good by it grant the ministry of your spirit for these things which we ask in Jesus name.

Amen. Confusion six beginning in verse 21. And going through verse 22.

But that you also may know my affairs and how I am doing. This a beloved brother. And faithful minister in the Lord will make all things known to you. Whom I have sent to you for this very purpose that you may know are affairs and. That he may comfort your hearts.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

The marvelous thing with the Lord sometimes is pleased to do through ordinary obedience. You remember when? God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. And he said should I keep this hidden from Abraham? Shouldn't I tell him since I have chosen him. And it's very interesting what he says at that point he says Genesis 18 verse 18 for I have known him or I've chosen him in order that.

And it would have been as we know from the rest of the Bible quite accurate from to say in order that the Christ might come from him or through him. In order that all the families on the earth would be blessed in him or in his family. But he says, In order that he may command his children.

And his household after him. That they keep the way of Yahweh. To do righteousness and justice that you always may bring to Abraham what he has spoken to him. Very interesting basically in order that Abraham may be the spiritual head of his household and lead them in family worship and make application from that family worship to their ordinary lives.

And that was. Providentially speaking a means by which God would end up ringing Christ into the world. It was a means by which God would make Abraham's family the family in which the rest of the. Families of the earth would be blessed. Well, there was a man named Tichikus.

And we don't know that much about apparently the New Testament church knew a lot about him. To the Ephesians the Apostle calls him a beloved brother and a faithful and the word really is servant minister is. Fine. A beloved brother and a faithful servant and how many how many believers grace transformed people could you have actually said that about many.

I thank God in his mercy to us. I could say that about many of you a beloved brother sister a faithful servant. Titchikus being a beloved brother and faithful servant got to carry the letter to the Ephesians the letter to the Colossians if the letter that he mentions in Colossians to the Laodicean the layer to seeans that was to be read in Ephesus was a different letter and not this one with a different introduction on it, he carried that one as well.

It is likely because he was sent to Philemon with unezimus that he carried the letter to Philemon and when he wrote to Timothy, he said the Titlicus would be coming soon, he might have well have carried 2nd Timothy as well. That's a lot for a guy about whom we know pretty much nothing else.

And yet brotherly love and faithful plotting ordinary services often much used by God. In fact, Paul's affection for the Ephesians is one of the ways that we got this amazing letter. And indeed it has been an amazing letter Paul loves the Ephesians. He knows they love him. He had ministered there for about three years, we can see the level of the affection that they have for one another and that very moving goodbye and acts 20 when it concludes with them there on the beach.

You know crying very much and they say most of all because of this word that they would not see him again that that was the last time in this life that they would see one another he loved them dearly and he knew their love for him and he didn't want them to feel what he had felt about.

Titus in explaining to the Corinthians some of the logistics how he chose where to go and when to go there and he had to do that to the Corinthians because there are people in the church at Corinth who were saying that Paul he just doesn't like us. That's why he's not done.

Or he just get back himself up. That's why he's not showing his face. And um and Paul's explaining them why he went where he did when he did. And one of the reasons why he had moved from one place to another is because he his heart was concerned for Titus.

And he went where he thought Titus was going to be. He tells us in second Corinthians chapter 2. He didn't find Titus there and and he was so distressed for him that even though he was having a prosperous ministry he moved on to go find Titus. And so now Paul is writing from prison he's told them about his chains and we just had that mentioned again in verse 20 and now he refers to his chains again and he referred to himself earlier in chapter 4 verse 1 as prisoner of the Lord he remembers oh, that's right.

That's why I started writing this amazing letter to begin with so that you may know my affairs and how I'm doing Titus a love brother and faithful minister in the Lord will make all things known to you whom I have sent to you for this very purpose that you may know our affairs he knows that the Christian love the love of Jesus for one another that God has produced in the hearts of the Ephesians is going to be concerned about him.

This of course is something that that we want to see in our own hearts and if we don't see it in our own hearts, we should be concerned and we should ask the Lord to soften us towards one another and stir up our hearts towards one another that we would be concerned to know how one another are doing that as many of you for instance this week were, you know, paying attention to your signal ask because you were concerned about how some of your brothers are doing.

That we would love one another in fact it's one of the first marks of Christ's true disciples isn't it that the love that Jesus has for his people he produces in his people's heart for one another John calls it both the new commandment referring to the fact that this is really something new that comes out of this active union with Christ the the risen is and ascended Lord and then he also calls it the commandment we have had from the beginning.

Which sounds like the opposite thing right how can the new commandment be the commandment that we had from the beginning but what he means when he says the describes it the other way is this has been the commandment that really has marked the church off and we of course remember the scripture that says they will know that you are my disciples by your love one for one another and so Paul loves them and he knows that they love him and he doesn't want them to be overly distressed by not knowing how things are going on in his.

Imprisonment and he says I got a centurion to them, he's a beloved brother and a faithful servant and he'll tell them how I'm doing and he'll do it in a way that encourages their hearts and he pins by the Holy Spirit a letter to go with Titus so that they would not only verse 22 know our affairs but also so that he may comfort your heart so the Titus will say have I got something to read you.

And just imagine this letter from the one that you were worried about how he's doing in prison how are things going with our beloved pastor whom we heard got arrested and now he's in prison what's going on with Paul and and Titus starts to read the letter and you get that massive blast of the glorious grace of God and in his electing love and how God has designed for the praise of his glory everything that happens between electing love and glorified saints.

And everybody in Ephesians says Pastor Paul is doing just fine. And their hearts are encouraged to for everything they are going through as well. God used a past an apostles pastoral love for his congregation and his knowledge that they would love him and be concerned to know how he is doing as the occasion upon which the Spirit gave to the church by the pen of Paul and by the feet of Titus.

The letter to the Ephesians that we've been studying.

Now, no new books of the Bible because that can't happen. No new books of the Bible are going to be written. By your loving one, another. But you may be surprised. When God does something massively great through what you just thought was you being concerned for a sister you being concerned for a brother and wanting them to be encouraged in the Lord and including not just here's how I'm doing and thank you for loving me and God's treating me well but also included with it some theology about maybe election and predestination and God's purposes of glory and salvation and dreaming justified only through faith and being justified unto good works and includes some scripture in there.

About how marvelous it is that we're reconciled not only to God and one to another. You're not gonna write new scripture, but you sure can. Repeat some old scripture. And the Lord may well use you to work in the heart of a saint how many Christian biographies have you read?

Well, maybe that's not a good there are many Christian biographies that you could read. Of one or another saying to his parents ordinary daily love for God and leading this family or someone in the churches kindly concern for them and desire to encourage them and putting them in the way of truth for instance our family has recently been reading a child's biography of Luther and there were several folks that God put in Luther's life early in his life by him love for the gospel and love for the word were stirred up and you know what that blossomed into later?

We don't know but we love to wonder dear children what God might do through your lives through the encouragement of one or another of us whom you sat with at lunch and amused and impressed us and you don't know what God is going to do through you in one another's lives.

You don't know how God is going to respond to your praying the way we heard last week about how we're to pray for all the saints and you hear about someone in China or you hear about a pastor who got put in prison in Canada or something like that and you pray for them and God who listens to the little and to the big the same because he is listening to them for Jesus's sake.

And there are no small prayers and Jesus name, what will he do in response to your praying? Now God has not called you to make. His massive plan worked. He's called you. Like he's cold. Abraham. To daily ordinary faithfulness, he's called you like he's called the Apostle Paul and Titicus and the Ephesians believers to love one another.

Has Christ has loved you and he will get great glory. By the massive things he does through that daily ordinary great sustained. Holy Spirit given Union through union with Jesus produced Christian love. Let's pray that he would do so through us as well and his application of this word to our lives.

Our Father in heaven we pray that you would give us genuine love for one another that our hearts would go out to one another that we would care about how each other are doing we pray that you would be pleased through ordinary every day working out of the mind and heart of Christ in us by your spirit be pleased to do the kind of thing that we would look back and be amazed that you did that through such ordinary loving of one another.

We thank you. For saints like Paul and Tetrachus whose name we know and so many Ephesians. Saints whose names we don't know yet. Though we all know them in glory. And we thank you that you have been pleased to include us among them having set your love upon us in the beloved the Lord Jesus that we might be holy and blameless in love one day when you have conformed us to his image and we ask that you would even use this portion of your word and this time that we have had hearing it read and opened in bringing us at last to that day when we have been glorified to the praise of the glory of your grace.

Which we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.