

Holy and Faithful

To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ. (Colossians 1:2, NIV)

It's easy to get distracted by the human side of the church and its people. We sometimes grow impatient with each other's weaknesses and immaturities.

But notice Paul's letters. The Christians in his day were surely as flawed and human as today. But he gives a different view of them. He always writes with such joy and deep affection for them.

Just read the openings to the letters. My favorite is the Colossians 1:2, *To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ.*

I wonder: if I had known those people, would I have described them this way? As I think of those around me, do I focus on their human failings and limitations, or do I appreciate them for the persons they are becoming in Christ?

Even now, in their imperfections, our *holy and faithful brothers* and sisters strengthen us in ways we take for granted. Their testimonies, their struggles, their failures and victories—even their mere presence with us—bolster our faith and keep pointing us week by week toward Christ. Through their lives, we see God in action.

Remember that those around us are destined to become kings and priests and honored children of God. If you want an exciting thought, picture your Christian friends as fulfilled in Christ. Imagine them without their fears, insecurities, emotional scars, and human weaknesses. See them as having become all God's love designed them to be and all His transforming power is able to make them. Rather moving, isn't it? This will soon be reality. We have God's Word on it.

Value your brothers and sisters now. Bear with them now. Encourage them, lift them up, forgive, and be patient with them. Love them the way Christ loves you.

With this in mind, let's sing our benediction. As we prepare to leave, let's offer this song as our prayer for ourselves and for those around us.

Hymn: [Keep Us Strong in Faith](#)