

How Do We Relate to Saints Beyond Northridge

^{NKJ} **Colossians 4:15** Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his house.

^{BYZ} **Colossians 4:15** Ἀσπάσασθε τοὺς ἐν Λαοδικείᾳ ἀδελφοὺς καὶ Νύμφαν καὶ τὴν κατ οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἐκκλησίαν

The command: “Greet”

Greet – greet, salute, welcome, express good wishes.

Acts 18:22, 20:1, 21:19, 21:6, 21:7, 21:19

This word, outside the gospels and Acts is used in the closing chapters of epistles (Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, 1 Peter, and 2 and 3 John).

Hebrews 11:13.

Greet assumes some things:

- A commonality in doctrine – See verse 16
- An interaction: They had to meet each other.

I. A Specific Place: Laodicea

A. Brethren – this deals with the spiritual relationship

Romans 9:25-26, Galatians 3:26

The factor which makes someone a brother or sister in Christ is their faith. It is not their location, the church they are members of, or the interests they have in common. It is their belief in Jesus Christ.

B. In Laodicea – a neighboring community.

Colossians 2:1-3, 4:13-16, Revelation 1, 3.

Laodicea was about 10 miles from Colosse. While this seems close to us (many of us have traveled further today), this would have been a couple of hours (at least) traveling by foot.

II. A Specific Person: Nymphas

A. Only place we see him (or her)

B. Name means – from

νυμφη, numphe - “bride” or

νυμφον, numphon - “bridegroom” or

νυμφιος, numphios - “wedding.”

C. He hosted an assembly in his house.

1. He was a home owner.

- He had sufficient means

- He may have even had slaves (Chapter3)

2. He opened his home to the assembly.

- A typical well to do home could have held 30 to 50 people. A large villa could have held more.

III. A Specific People: The assembly in his house

A. Church – assembly – a group of believers who gathered together.

- The church is a group who met together:

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1) For teaching – the letter from Paul was probably read to all.

2) For fellowship – Ephesians 4:12-16.

3) For prayer – there is a time for praying together.

B. In his house

Hebrews 10:24-25

How should we act:

1) We have a commonality with those of like faith. We should greet them, encourage them, and at times even learn with them.

2) Our primary commitment should be to the local body. While we celebrate our commonality with others, the bible still focuses on the “assembling of ourselves together.”