

How to Treat our Fellow Laborers

Philemon 8-14

Introduction:

1. Paul had actually led Philemon to Christ (vs. 19) and they had served God together side by side.
2. Likewise, if you are in Christ and part of a local assembly of believers, you are going to have fellow laborers.
 - This is God's _____.
 - *“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”* 1 Corinthians 3:9
3. This can be both a blessing and a challenge, because where there are **people**, there are _____.
4. This little letter is a textbook on how one believer should treat his fellow laborer in Christ. We get to see firsthand how Paul deals with a very sensitive situation with his fellow laborer. What are the principles we learn from this little letter about how to treat our fellow laborers?

First, express _____ for their ministry. vs. 5, 7

- Sometimes we can get tunnel vision, and we only see the _____ of **our** ministries. Do you realize that it takes all the members of the body ministering in their unique ways for the body to function efficiently?
1 Corinthians 12:17-21

Second, exhort them in a spirit of _____. vs. 8-9

1. _____ intimidates, coerces, guilt-trips, pressures, and uses force.
2. _____ says, "I will do it out of love. I will do it because I love you."
2 Corinthians 5:14
3. People may walk a mile for you out of _____, but they will follow you to the ends of the earth out of _____.

Third, always _____ their opinions and thoughts. vs. 10-16

1. Verse 14 is a key in how to treat our co-laborers.
 - Paul said, "*Without thy mind would I do nothing...*"
 - The word "*mind*" means "_____"; counsel."
2. We must be good listeners and be ready to _____ what others are thinking.

Fourth, _____ and believe in your fellow laborers. vs. 20-22

1. Paul had every confidence that Philemon would do what was right in the situation.
2. We should always strive to believe the _____ about people, until they absolutely give us no choice but to believe otherwise.

In Conclusion:

1. What incredible lessons we can learn here from Paul. The work of the ministry is a _____ effort, and it is crucial that you be able to relate to and get along with your fellow laborers in Christ.
2. How exciting to see Paul in a real-life situation, a real-life problem, and we get to see how Paul dealt with his fellow laborer. May we all take these wonderful principles and _____ them in our relationships with each other.