

The Sweetness of Forgiveness – Part 1

Philemon 19-25

Introduction:

1. *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”*
Colossians 3:13-14
2. Paul desired for the situation between Philemon and Onesimus to be a living display of these verses to that local congregation.
3. Why should Philemon forgive Onesimus? Why should **we** forgive those who have wronged us? The conclusion of this letter provides the answer.

Forgiveness brings _____ of mind. vs. 19

1. Did you know that when Christians harbor an unforgiving spirit, it robs us of our peace? The reason why is because there is something instinctive that tells us that this is _____ and hypocritical.
 - When you accept a wealth of grace and then refuse to _____ it with others, you will lack peace. Ephesians 4:32
2. Forgiveness looses **you** and sets **you** _____! Forgiveness is not an easy thing, but once you do it, _____ floods your mind and heart.

Forgiveness produces _____. vs. 20a

1. Unforgiveness is a recipe for internal _____. Ephesians 4:31
2. Unforgiveness grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), which _____ the believer of joy.

3. In the story of the prodigal son, what did the father's forgiveness produce internally for him and externally to others? (Luke 15:20-24) _____!
4. What did the brother's unforgiveness produce? (Luke 15:28) _____ and isolation!
5. Unforgiveness equals _____, forgiveness equals _____.
Philippians 4:2-4