

## The Need for "Philemons" in the Local Church Philemon 1-7

### Notes:

- What a blessing Philemon was to the cause of Christ!
- Oh, how we need more Philemons in the local church. Are you a Philemon?
- Let's examine what Paul says about this saint and draw some principles for our own lives.

**First, Philemon's service for the Lord was a \_\_\_\_\_ affair.**

### vs. 1-2

- Philemon had his entire \_\_\_\_\_ involved in the work of the ministry.
- A man's family should desire to serve the Lord with him for two reasons:
  - First, he \_\_\_\_\_ them in his service for the Lord.
  - Second, he helps his family to grow so that they \_\_\_\_\_ to serve the Lord with him.

**Second, Philemon practiced gracious \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 2, 5**

- The local assembly met in Philemon's \_\_\_\_\_.
- Did you know that hospitality should not be an option for a believer?
  - *"Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*

### **Romans 12:13**

- *"Use hospitality one to another without grudging."* **1 Peter 4:9**
- Believers who are Philemons live for \_\_\_\_\_, not themselves.

**Third, Philemon was a source of \_\_\_\_\_ to others. vs. 7**

- *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* **Matthew 11:28**
- The word translated "refreshed" is the same word for "rest."
- Are you a Philemon? Do you provide rest, peace, comfort, and refreshment to others?

**In Conclusion:**

- The key to Philemon's gracious, Christ-filled life is in verse 6. It is the key for every believer who desires to be a Philemon.
- Philemon had shared his faith in Christ graciously with others. His faith had flowed forth into his \_\_\_\_\_ living.
- As your \_\_\_\_\_ begins to rest in the truth of who you are in Christ, you begin to allow Him to \_\_\_\_\_ through you and put Christ on display in your dealings with others.

# 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.

# Philemon: Teaching Us Deep Truth Through Real-life Drama

## Philemon 10-19

### Introduction:

1. There are three principal characters in this story:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – who has a close partnership with Philemon. vs. 1
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – the offended head of Onesimus. vs. 11a
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – the rebel and enemy of Philemon, who now has a relationship with Paul. vs. 10
2. In this letter, Paul plays the role of mediator between Philemon and Onesimus.
3. There are some incredible spiritual truths that are put on display here in this little book.

### First spiritual truth – the doctrine of mediation

(Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ between me and God.)

1. Onesimus is a picture of every one of us before we found Christ. He was lost and without hope, in a completely alienated position.
  - *“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”* Ephesians 2:12
  - *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.”* Colossians 1:21
2. A mediator stepped in to help condemned Onesimus. Paul mediated with Philemon on Onesimus' behalf.

3. We also were in a hopeless, alienated position from God Almighty, but a \_\_\_\_\_ stepped in to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.
  - *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* 1 Timothy 2:5

## **Second spiritual truth – the doctrine of imputation**

**(Christ takes my \_\_\_\_\_ and gives me His righteousness.)**

1. In verses 18 and 19, Paul says to Philemon, “Take his \_\_\_\_\_ and all his wrong-doing and put that on my account. Credit me with the wrong he has done. Take **my** good standing that I have with you and put that on **his** account.”
2. This is a beautiful picture of the doctrine of imputation. 1 Peter 2:24;  
Romans  
5:6-8
  - To impute simply means “to \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* 2 Corinthians  
5:21
3. Christ takes every one of our \_\_\_\_\_ debts and has them imputed to Him. The moment we trust Him as our Savior, He takes His righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_ that to our account.

## **Third spiritual truth – identification**

**(God now receives me as He does His own \_\_\_\_\_.)**

1. In verse 17, Paul says, *“If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him **as myself.**”*
4. Think about it. Christ does for us what Paul did for Onesimus. We were alienated from God by wicked works.

5. But Christ has a loving, eternal, partnership relationship with the Father.  
John 1:1, 14:9-10
6. When you trust Christ, Christ says, "Father, I have paid all their sin debts, I have given them my righteousness; now receive them just like you would \_\_\_\_\_."
7. When you got saved, you received an \_\_\_\_\_ identification in Christ whereby you are completely accepted and received by the Father.  
Ephesians 1:6, 3:12
  - *"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."*  
Galatians 4:6-7
8. Aren't you thankful that God now sees you as \_\_\_\_\_?

# 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

# The Sweetness of Forgiveness – Part 2

## 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.”*  
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**Forgiveness brings \_\_\_\_\_ of mind. vs. 19**

**Forgiveness produces \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 20a**

**Forgiveness is a testimony to \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 20b, 23-25**

1. Our forgiveness (or lack thereof) has a direct affect on others who are \_\_\_\_\_ us.
2. A believer may say, “But he was wrong and I was right.” As a Christian we must understand that there are times when being **right** isn't what \_\_\_\_\_ the most.
3. Our lives should make the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ look attractive. One of the ways that we do this is by our love and unity, and lack of contention. Philippians 1:27; John 13:35

## Forgiveness brings \_\_\_\_\_. vs. 21

1. Paul assumed that there would be quarrels in the local church.  
Colossians 3:13
2. The question is not whether there will be quarrels; the question is how you will \_\_\_\_\_ when the quarrels come.
3. Paul gives us some clear cut commands on how to respond. You can summarize it in two action verbs: forbear and forgive.
  - “Forbear” literally means, “to \_\_\_\_\_ up with.”
  - There are times when you just put up with people's actions, and you simply apply \_\_\_\_\_ and go on.
  - Then there are times when the offence really stings, and you can't just blow it off and forbear. You have to intentionally face the \_\_\_\_\_ and apply Christ-like forgiveness.
4. A believer cannot harbor bitterness and anger and be right with God. Unforgiveness gives place to the \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Corinthians 2:8-11

## Forgiveness enhances our \_\_\_\_\_ lives. vs. 22

- Bitterness will always \_\_\_\_\_ your prayer life. When you are hanging on to grudges and full of bitterness, you don't feel like praying.

### In Conclusion:

1. A person may say, “Why should I forgive and let them off the hook?”
2. Do you know what the reality is? When you refuse to forgive, who is on the hook? \_\_\_\_\_ are!
3. When you choose to forgive, you are letting them off **your** hook. This means you are \_\_\_\_\_! The sweetness of forgiveness is that it sets you free.

## What Does the Bible Teach About Slavery?

1. The word “\_\_\_\_\_” does not appear in the King James Bible, but the concept of compulsory service of one person to another **does** exist.
2. Servanthood was embedded in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Bible times. It was extremely common.
3. As we will see, many times compulsory service in the Bible was an act of mercy to provide for the poor rather than an act of exploitation.

### What were some reasons why people may have found themselves to be servants?

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ **yourself** to be a servant. Leviticus 25:39-41, 44-47; Exodus 12:45
2. You \_\_\_\_\_ from another person. Exodus 22:3
3. You could not pay your \_\_\_\_\_. Exodus 21:2-6
4. You simply \_\_\_\_\_ this life. Deuteronomy 15:16-17

### What are some biblical warnings about the issue of servanthood?

1. A person could not be kidnapped and \_\_\_\_\_ into slavery or sold as a slave. Exodus 21:16; Deuteronomy 24:7; 1 Timothy 1:10
2. Foreign slaves who ran away from their Gentile masters were to be welcomed in Israel, and \_\_\_\_\_ returned to their masters. Deuteronomy 23:15-16
3. Servants were \_\_\_\_\_ to be treated with cruelty. Exodus 21; Ephesians 6:9

## What did the apostle Paul teach about the issue of servanthood?

- As we said earlier in this lesson, Paul lived in a day and culture in which it was very \_\_\_\_\_ for people to have servants working for them.
  - Some of the reasons were legitimate (thievery, unpaid debt, etc.), but some may not have been. Therefore, Paul gave guidelines and principles that would help a believer to show forth Christ whether he found himself a servant or free.
1. Glorify Christ and reflect His \_\_\_\_\_ no matter your social status.  
1 Corinthians 7:20-22
  2. Treat those who serve under you fairly and with \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1
  3. If you are a servant, serve with a right attitude and a right work ethic, as if Jesus is your boss. Colossians 3:22-23; Ephesians 6:5-7; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10

## How does Paul's gospel impact the issue of servanthood?

- The Bible approaches many cultural issues from an inside-out approach. The way you change culture is by changing the \_\_\_\_\_ of the people within the culture.
  - Paul gets to the very root of the issue by dealing with the overriding issues of love, grace, patience, kindness, etc. Here are some of the doctrines that Paul taught that would greatly impact the way a person thought about servanthood:
1. Paul taught that there are **no** social distinctions in the body of Christ.  
1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11
  2. Paul taught that when a servant is saved, he should be treated not as a servant, but as a \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. Philemon 15-16

3. Paul taught that God is no respecter of persons, and eternal \_\_\_\_\_ are given on an absolutely equal basis. Ephesians 6:8-9
4. Paul taught that Christ was a servant (Philippians 2:7) and that he himself (Paul) was a servant (Romans 1:1; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Galatians 1:10; Philippians 1:1), and that \_\_\_\_\_ believers are ultimately servants of Christ, not men. 1 Corinthians 7:22-23

**All of these doctrines would ultimately lay an axe at the \_\_\_\_\_ of slavery and help to abolish the evils of slavery.**