

The Call to Forgive and be Reconciled

Partners in Christ (Vs.17)

- The foundation for every relationship we have with other believers is **Christ**. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).
- This communion/fellowship we have with other believers is founded on and lived out in God's Word. Scripture commands us to be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10), honor one another (Romans 12:10), live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8), accept one another (Romans 15:7), serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13), be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32), admonish one another (Colossians 3:16), encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13), spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24), offer hospitality (1 Peter 4:9), and love one another (1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11; 3:23; 4:7; 4:11-12).
- Paul is appealing for Philemon to receive Onesimus in the same way he would receive Paul. God does not show partiality (Rom 2:11, Gal 3:28)
- Philemon and Onesimus, along with any other believers, are:
 - Apart of the same body (1 Cor 12:12-13; 24-25)
 - Sharing in a heavenly calling (Heb 3:1)
 - Heirs to the same kingdom (Gal 4:6-7)

An Example of Christ (Vs. 18)

Onesimus owed Philemon a great deal. Philemon can either choose to forgive or punish. Paul offers an example of the work of Christ in order to push for reconciliation and forgiveness.

- "If he has wronged you at all": We wrong God on a *daily basis*.
- "Or owes you anything": We owe God *everything*. We can never repay Him.
- "Charge that to my account": Christ took what was impossible to do, and accomplished it. That is, pay for our sin debt.

Paul was under no legal obligation to offer to pay Onesimus's debt, and yet out of love, he extended that grace to Onesimus and Philemon (1 Cor 2:2). Christ, who owed us absolutely *nothing*, in His love, grace and mercy, took on your sin, to save you from His own wrath, for His own glory, and for your good. (Rom 5:6-9; 10:9-10)

The Magnitude of the Work of Christ (Vs.19)

Paul reminds Philemon of how God used Paul's evangelism to save him. The debt Philemon owes Paul is far greater than the debt Onesimus owes Philemon. We (Paul included) owe an infinite debt to our Lord for saving us! (Colossians 2:13-14)

Paul could have demanded that Philemon forgive Onesimus (vs.8) but would rather appeal to Philemon out of love. Love is an action (John 14:15)

Refreshment in Christ (Vs.20)

"In the Lord" shows that Paul is revealing the will of God in this situation. To **forgive, be reconciled and be united**.

Obedience to God does not take our joy, but *gives* it. (Psalm 119:32-35, 1 John 5:3, Psalm 1:1-3, 1 John 2:21-22)

The lie of the flesh is that our sinful desires will bring joy and refreshment, when in fact, they leave us to die! (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25, James 1:15, Romans 6:23; 7:11)

Worship: This is Amazing Grace (Phil Wickham) Lord From Sorrows Deep I Call (Matt Papa)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7