



Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 4.9.2023

Reconciliation Is Risky Business

Lesson 7 • Philemon 17-20

Removing roadblocks that we are responsible for is **ALWAYS** possible – *but reconciliation is not!*

Three Reasons Reconciliation Is Risky Business

1. The Risk of Rejection Is **GREAT!** (v. 17)

- **Onesimus** Takes the Risk of **RETURNING**: *“The Man in the Mess...Like the Rest of Us!”*

How Do We Take the Fear Out of Risking Rejection?

1. Realize that God the Father *always* **LOVES** you and His Son has *already* **FORGIVEN** you.
2. Remember your **CIRCLE** of responsibility: Responsible **for** yourself and responsible **to** others.
3. Rest in the fact that their refusal to forgive is a rejection of **CHRIST** more than you... *plus* you are in good company.

Three Dangers to Avoid When You Risk Returning to Ask for Forgiveness

1. The fear of **REJECTION**: *Not taking the risk to ask out of fear.*
2. The desire to **JUDGE**: *Assuming you know how they will respond.*
3. The need to **CONTROL**: *Taking responsibility for their response.*

- **Philemon** Takes the Risk of **RECEIVING**: *“The Man Who Was Master...or Was He?”*

- The risk that Onesimus **might take advantage** of him again in the future.
- The risk that Paul would **no longer respect** him for rejecting Onesimus.
- The risk that the church would **hold him accountable** to practice what he preached and share with Onesimus what he so freely shared with others.
- The risk that God would **discipline him** for being unforgiving to others when God had freely forgiven him in Christ.

How Do We Take the Fear Out of Risking Forgiving Others?

1. Realize that God the Father is always **READY** to receive you and His Son is *always* **WILLING** to forgive you *repeatedly!*
2. Remember that you are to treat others the **SAME WAY** God has treated you.
3. Reflect on the fact that you have the **DIVINE RESOURCES** to meet the deepest need of their heart!

- **Paul** Takes the Risk of **RECONCILING**: *“The Man in the Middle Like Christ Our Mediator!”*

Paul Has Asked Philemon to Receive Onesimus Back...

As his own **CHILD**. (v. 10)

As His own **HEART**. (v. 12)

As His own **SELF**. (v. 17)

How Do We Take the Fear Out of Risking Peacemaking?

1. Realize that you have been given both the **MESSAGE** and the **MINISTRY** of reconciliation! 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
2. Remember that God the Father **BLESSES** those who are peacemakers. Matthew 5:9
3. Rejoice in the fact that you are never more **LIKE CHRIST** than when you seek to reconcile brothers and sister in Christ.

2. The Cost of Reconciliation Is **HIGH!** (vv. 18-19)

- **Philemon** will have to pay the price of **RECONCILING**.

*Releasing the right to receive back **ALL** that the other person owes you! Matthew 18:21-30*

- **Onesimus** will have to pay the price of **REPENTING** of what he had done.

1. **CONFESSION**: *Admitting that he was wrong in what he did. Colossians 4:9*
2. **CONSEQUENCES**: *Being willing to suffer the penalty of his misdeeds.*
3. **CONTRITION**: *Being willing to sacrifice what he desires in order to make things right with others.*

- **Paul** would have to pay the price of **REDEEMING** the debtor **and** **REPAYING** the debt!

Paul's Powerful Promises to Pay the Price:

1. If he has wronged you or owes you anything: **PUT THAT ON MY ACCOUNT!** (v. 18)
2. I, Paul, am writing with my own hand: **I WILL REPAY!** (v. 19a)
3. Not to mention to you that: **YOU OWE to ME EVEN YOUR OWN SELF as WELL!** (v. 19b)
4. Finally: **YES, BROTHER, LET ME HAVE JOY from YOU in the LORD! REFRESH MY HEART in the LORD!** (v. 20)

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| We owe a debt we can never pay! | Jesus says: "Put that on my account!" |
| We paid a debt He did not owe! | Jesus says: "I will repay!" |
| We owe Him our lives and others our love! | Jesus says: "You owe me even your own self besides!" |
| We ought to do for others what has been done for us! | Jesus says: "Let Me have joy from you! Refresh My heart!" |

3. The Return of Refreshment Is **PRICELESS!** (v. 20)

Reconciliation Is Risky Business but the Returns Are Out of This World: "Refresh My Heart in Christ!"

The Return on Onesimus' Risk: *His Release and Return to Fruitful Service!*
*Will you risk being rejected to **receive** the refreshment of forgiveness?*

The Return on Philemon's Risk: *His Reconciliation and Reception of a Beloved Brother!*
*Will you risk suffering loss to **give** the refreshment of forgiveness?*

The Return on Paul's Risk: *His Rejoicing and Refreshment in Other's Reconciliation!*
*Will you risk sacrificing yourself to **share** with others the refreshment of reconciliation?*

PHILEMON

"Affectionate"

Convert of Paul, Household Master, & Church Host Needs to Break Through to Real Fellowship with His Runaway but Recently Converted Slave, Onesimus!

Breakthrough to Real Fellowship

Real fellowship in Christ breaks through barriers to refreshing relationships with one another.

"If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me...Yes, brother...refresh my heart in Christ." Philemon 17, 20

Rub a Dub Dub, Three Men in a Tub of Trouble!

| PHILEMON the MASTER 1 or Is He? 7 | | ONESIMUS in the MESS 8 Like the Rest of Us! 17 | | PAUL in the MIDDLE Like Christ Our Mediator! 25 | |
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| Praise for Philemon | | Plea for Onesimus | | Promise by Paul of... | |
| 1-3 "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus... Grace to you and peace..." | | 4-7 "I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers..." | | 8-17 "Therefore...for love's sake I rather appeal to you — If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me." | |
| 4 FUNDAMENTALS of Real Fellowship | | 3 BENCHMARKS of Real Fellowship | | 5 STAGES for Removing Roadblocks to Reconciliation | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">It can never be forced on one another!It's always a result of releasing our rights!It's always personal but never private!It's never possible apart from divine resources: <i>Grace and peace!</i> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">It is radiating fellowship that flows outward from a growing relationship with Christ.It is radical fellowship that treats others the way God in Christ has treated us!It is refreshing fellowship that applies divine resources to the deepest needs of the human heart! | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Make a request not a ruling.Seek to reconcile the people not resolve the problem.Focus on receiving not rejecting.Begin to renew your perspective not replay the past.✓ Think eternal not temporary.✓ Think reconciliation not separation.✓ Think brotherhood not bondage.✓ Think love not hate or indifference.✓ Think spiritual not just physical.✓ Think gain not loss.Choose to remove the roadblocks not resist God's purpose in Christ. | |
| PAYMENT 18-20 "But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account...I will repay..." | | PARTNERSHIP 21-24 "Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say." | | PROVISION 25 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. [Amen]!" | |
| 3 REASONS Why Reconciliation Is Risky Business | | 4 WAYS to Find Hope for Future Breakthroughs and Then Some | | 2 REMINDERS about Real Fellowship | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">The risk of rejection is great.The cost of reconciliation is high.The return of refreshment is priceless. <p><i>It's risky business because it always takes two to reconcile!</i></p> <p><i>But removing roadblocks to reconciliation is always possible when we...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Receive Christ and become His partner in the ministry of reconciliation.✓ Receive others in the same way Christ has received us – <i>as undeserving partners in the ministry of reconciliation.</i> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hope for future obedience and then some...an open heart!Hope for future deliverance and then some...an open home!Hope for future fellowship and then some...an open hand!Hope for future breakthrough and then some...an openness to His healing! <p><i>By His grace we're able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Receive the best...✓ Expect the best from others...✓ Think the best of others...✓ Share the best with others...✓ Give the best to others...✓ Pray the best for others... <i>in the Lord!</i> | | <p><i>Is there hope for future breakthroughs and then some?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Amen: It Is True! <i>Real fellowship in Christ breaks through barriers to refreshing relationships with one another!</i> So PRAISE God for It!Amen: Let It Be! <i>Remove relational roadblocks with an effective faith, a reconciling love, and a confident hope by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!</i> So PRAY for one another to experience It! | |
| REFRESH HEARTS by GRACE | 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. | 7 For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother. | 12 I have sent him back to you in person, that is, my very heart, | 20 Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. | 25 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. |
| "You" Sing = 20x | 2 | 4, 6, 7 | 8, 10, 11 (2x), 12, 13, 14, 16 | 18, 19, 20 | 21 (2x), 23 |
| "YOU" Plural= 4x | 3 Grace to YOU and peace | | | | 22 for I trust that through YOUR prayers I shall be granted to YOU. 25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with YOUR spirit. |