



SERMON CHEAT SHEET

FAITH THAT REFRESHES | PHILEMON 1-7

Main Theme: The grace we receive from Christ must visibly transform how we handle our most difficult relationships.

Surrender Your Rights

Paul deliberately sets aside his apostolic title to approach Philemon entirely as a fellow sufferer in chains. Jesus modeled this exact posture by entering the world in profound vulnerability to willingly absorb our ultimate debt. A life genuinely changed by grace leads with this same vulnerability and relies completely on the unearned gifts of God. We are called to step away from our personal leverage and actively model the grace we want to see in others.

Costly Love for All

Paul praises Philemon because his deep faith in Jesus produces a visible love for all the believers around him. We frequently maintain a hidden list of individuals we quietly exempt from our love because they caused us real pain. The gospel challenges us to stretch our boundaries and show indiscriminate love to everyone. True faith requires us to show up and love people well exactly when the relationship costs us our pride and comfort.

Perform Your Theology

Paul prays that Philemon's mutual participation in the faith will become a performed reality in his daily life. Biblical knowledge requires us to actively practice the truths we claim to understand. We must allow our theology to operate fully within our most difficult circumstances to bring deep refreshment to the hearts of others. Reconciling broken relationships ultimately displays the unique glory of Christ to a watching world.

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Identify the specific names of people you have quietly excluded from your willingness to show love.
- Acknowledge the deep pain these individuals caused you and bring the honest weight of it directly to God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the first available step you can take toward restoring a difficult relationship today.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Ask God for the humility to surrender your personal rights and approach conflict with vulnerability.
- Pray for a faith that consistently translates into a visible and costly love for everyone.
- Seek the power of the Holy Spirit to close the gap between your theological knowledge and your daily actions.