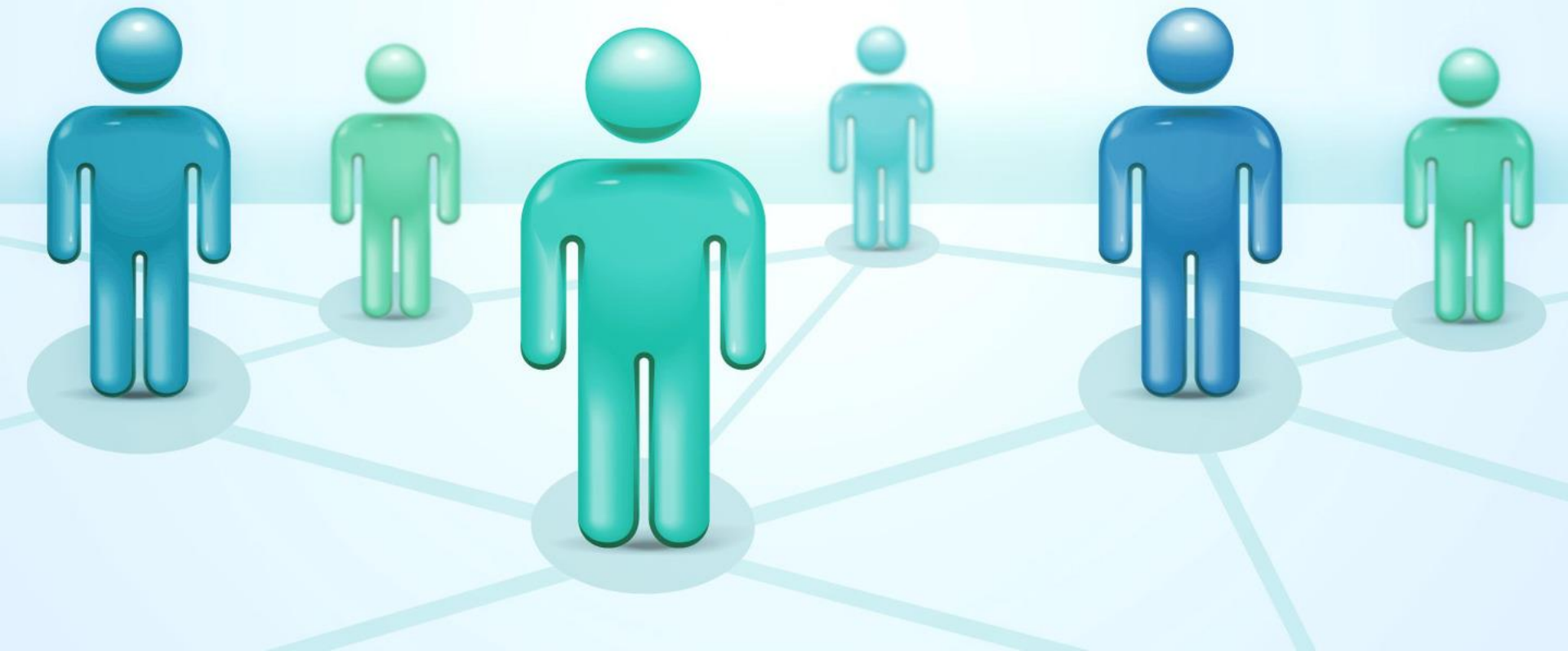


Building Productive Relationships



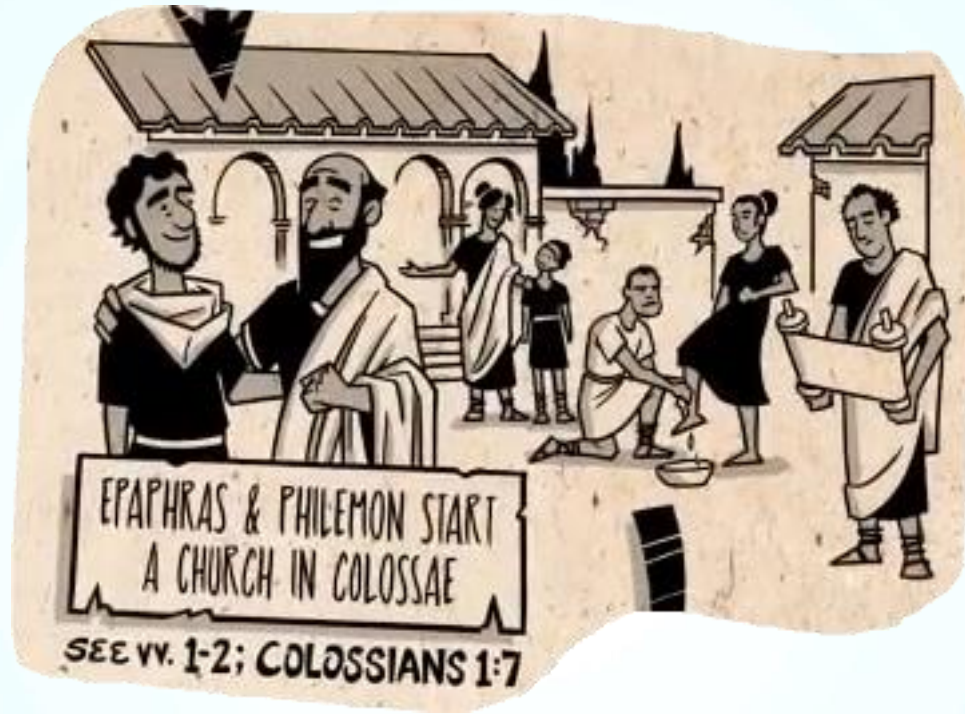
THE BACKSTORY:

† = crown

PHILEMON
BECOMES A
CHRISTIAN

SEE V.19









A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Begin with your common ground.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—² also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1:1-3



A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Genuinely thank God for these people.

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Philemon 1:4-7



A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Appeal on the basis of love.

⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰ that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

Philemon 1:8-11



A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Offer reasonable, compassionate solutions.

¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

Philemon 1:12-14



A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Become involved. Take on some of the risk.

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

Philemon 1:17-19



A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Expect the Very Best.

²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Philemon 1:20-21



A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Don't Forget to Check Up.

²² And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

Philemon 1:22



A Working Model for Handling Touchy Situations

Wrap it with high hopes, with your common ground again.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. ²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

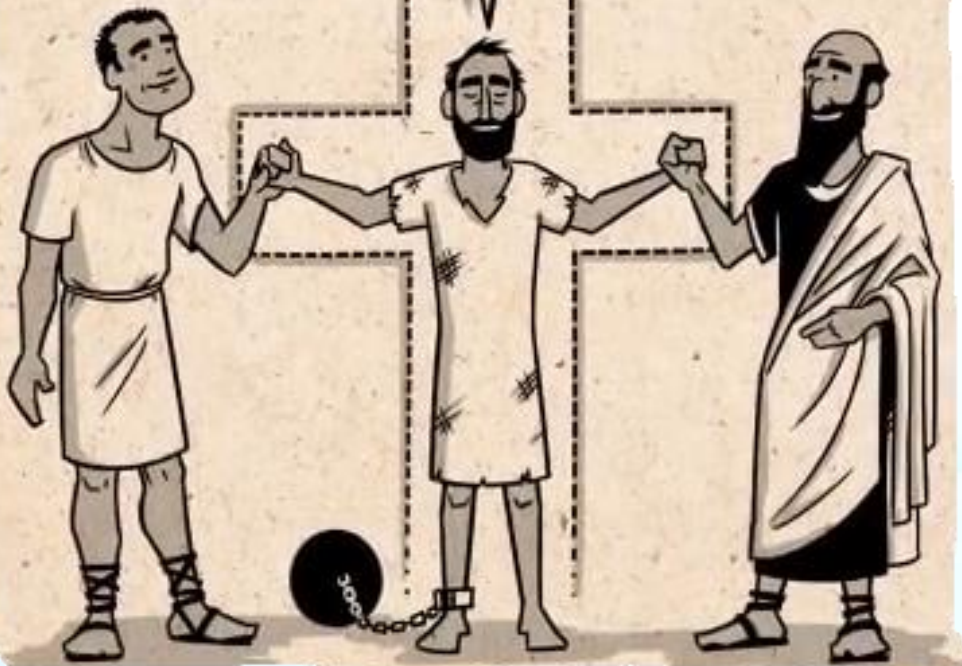
²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Philemon 1:23-25



Why Should Philemon Do This?

WHY SHOULD PHILEMON DO THIS?

IF YOU ARE TRULY A **PARTNER** (GRK: KOINONIA) WITH ME, THEN WELCOME ONESIMUS AS IF HE WERE ME. IF HE'S WRONGED YOU OR OWES YOU ANYTHING, CHARGE IT TO ME--I WILL REPAY IT. (vv17-19)



Because we have been reconciled.

Because we all need forgiveness.

Building Productive Relationships

