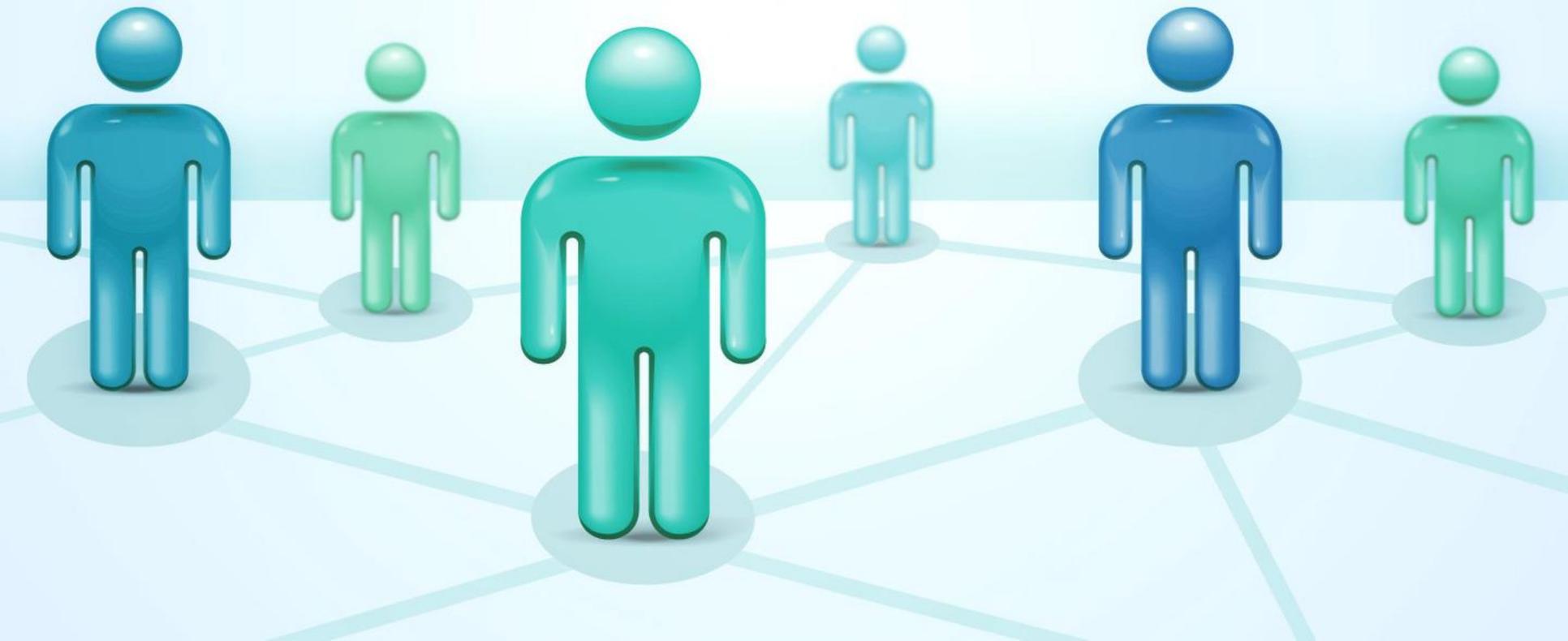


Building Productive Relationships



THE BACKSTORY:

† = 👑

PHILEMON
BECOMES A
CHRISTIAN

SEE v.19





EPAPHRAS & PHILEMON START
A CHURCH IN COLOSSAE

SEE VV. 1-2; COLOSSIANS 1:7





*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.*

*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.*

Philemon 1



⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

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



*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. ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—
¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.*

Philemon 1



Begin By Breaking Down the Walls...

1. Whoever Has Offended You Has Offended God Even More.

2. Failing to Forgive ...

-- Is a failure to love others like you love yourself.

-- Is a failure to see God's perspective.

-- Is failure to follow God's example and commands.



Begin By Breaking Down the Walls...

3. If You Don't Forgive...

- **You'll be forced to keep record.**
- **You'll Forfeit Friendships.**
- **You will not be forgiven.**



Then Move Toward Building Bridges

1. Be Open, Be Accepting.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

Philemon 17

2. When He/She is Down, Help Them Out.

If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

Philemon 18



Then Move Toward Building Bridges

3. Look at Friendships as Personal Investments.

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 19

4. Make It Your Aim To Be a Benefit and Blessing.

I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

Philemon 20



Then Move Toward Building Bridges

5. Possess Confidence; Demonstrate Confidence.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Philemon 21

6. Make Accountability A Normal Part of Life.

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

Philemon 22



Then Move Toward Building Bridges

7. Pay Attention to the Network of Friendships.

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

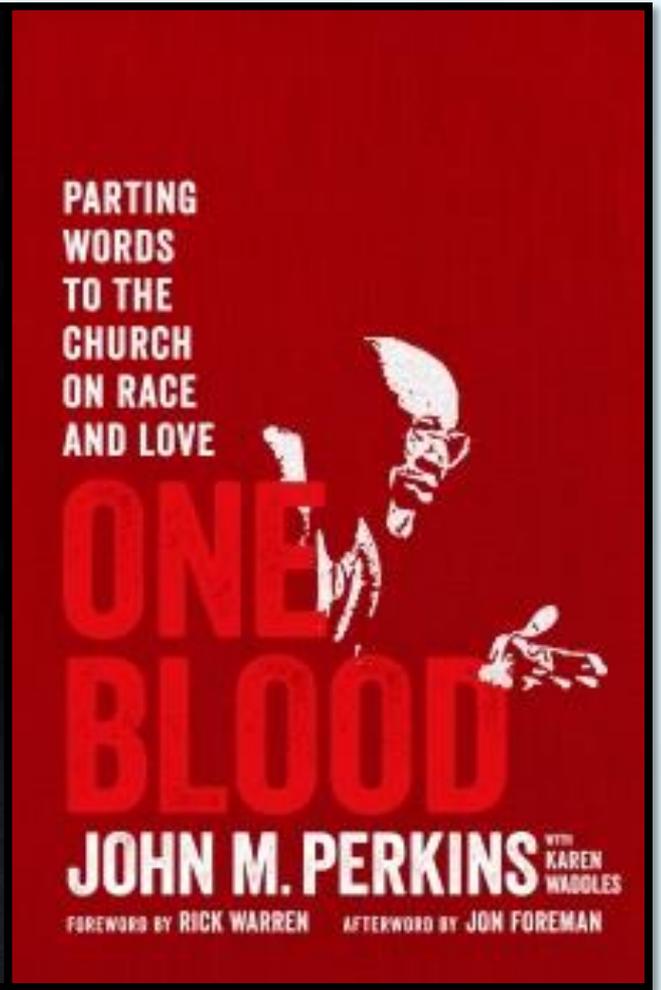
Philemon 23-24

8. Always return to God's grace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Philemon 25







BREAKING DOWN WALLS ...

BUILDING BRIDGES

