

How the Gospel Changes Relationships

September 3, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Philemon 1-25

Pastor Mark W. Turner

Premise: Godly Relationships glorify God and demonstrate the power of the Gospel in our daily lives so the world can see Jesus.

Letter to Philemon is real-life stuff. Diverse backgrounds brought together and reconciled by the power of the Gospel: Paul; Philemon; Onesimus.

How to Apply Gospel principles to Relationships:

1. Always affirm the value of each person in a relationship
Affirmations: Philemon 1,4-5,7
Team players: Philemon 2,23-24
2. Keep Gospel Prayer as the foundation of relationships 4,6
Tell people you are praying for them. Rom 12:20; 1 Pet 3:9; Mt 5:44-48
3. Appeals are more powerful than Commands 10
Paul did NOT command, but appealed to what was right. We should also.
4. Beware of presuming for your advantage 13-14
Paul asked permission, and even asked for benefit 20
5. Gentleness & tact accomplish much.
First states appreciations, then describes himself, finally gets to appeal. 10
6. Expect the best, but follow up & verify. 21-22
Paul was confident of Philemon's obedience 21 but he also hoped to visit 22
7. Be willing to bear the cost of a relationship like Christ did for you – Forgiveness is Costly!
It cost Paul
It cost Philemon
It cost Onesimus
Will you forgive as the Lord has forgiven you?
Mt 6:12; Lk 6:27; Col 3:13

Apply & Discuss:

- For each point, what is easy and what is hard about applying?
- Put yourself in Philemon's shoes: what would be hardest to do?
- Put yourself in Onesimus' shoes: what would be hardest to do?
- Why is forgiving others so hard? What does God say? Psalms 103:12; Mt 6:12; Lk 6:27; 1 Cor 13:5; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13

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