

An Appeal for Grace and Forgiveness

Brad McConnaughey // August 2, 2020

Philemon 1-25

Big Idea: The gospel transforms the way we see people and empowers us to forgive those who have wronged us.

1. All believers are _____ - _____ in Christ.

“You are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:26-28

2. As co-equals we are called to _____ and be _____ to one another as Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God.

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” **Ephesians 4:32** (Matthew 5:23-24, 18:21-35)*

“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”

Psalms 103:8-12

3. As co-equals we are called to _____ our brothers and sisters to forgive each other and be reconciled to each other.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:3

Sermon questions

1. Read **Philemon 1-25**. In your own words what is the main theme of this short letter? What did Paul ask of Philemon? What are some of the reasons Philemon should do what Paul asks?

2. Read v.4-7. Why was Paul thankful for Philemon?

Think about your reputation among believers. Do others see you as a person who loves others? Do you give others joy? Do you "refresh" the hearts of others? If not, why not? What can you do about that?

3. Read v. **8-16**. What attitude did Paul take toward Philemon?

In what two ways could Philemon respond to Paul's request to receive Onesimus?

We can do what is right out of some forced obligation or by the Holy Spirit guiding us in love. Talk about your motivation in forgiving and reconciling with others. Do you value your relationships with others (spouse, children, friends) enough to seek reconciliation when needed? Where does your motivation come from most of the time? Why do you think that is?

4. Philemon and Onesimus, as new creations in Christ (see **2 Corinthians 5:16-17**), were called to live according to a distinctive way of life. *Culturally*, how could Philemon have treated Onesimus?

As Christ-followers, how did the Lord want Philemon and Onesimus to relate to each other?

What specifically does that mean for you now?

Is there a broken relationship in your life where you could, or should, seek to reconcile? What can you do to start this process in the next 7 days?

5. Read **Philemon 17-18**. How do these verses picture what Jesus has done for you?

How does the fact that all your sin was “charged” to Jesus’ account affect the way you forgive others?

6. Based on your reading of Philemon, and Pastor Brad’s sermon, what are your takeaways from Philemon?

Read the Bible this year

Pastor Brad encouraged us to read the Bible in 2020. Here’s some help getting started. Each day this week read from the Old and New Testament. Or, if you prefer, read just from one testament. Enjoy!

- **Psalms 35-36; Acts 25**
- **Psalms 37-39; Acts 26**
- **Psalms 40-42; Acts 27**
- **Psalms 43-45**
- **Psalms 46-48; Acts 28**
- **Psalms 49-50; Romans 1**
- **Psalms 51-53; Romans 2**