

Message Questions from Philemon: “Receive Him...as One who Forgives”

Psalm 130:1-5; Matthew 6:14-15; 11:24; 18:23-24, Ephesians 4:30-32; Colossians 3:13-14

Main Idea

God’s revelation to humanity is intensely personal as it reveals that the love of God, the grace of God, forgiveness in Christ, and the inherent dignity of human life have real and pertinent impact in everyday life and therefore should profoundly impact the lives of believers.

Questions

1. Have you ever received a personal, handwritten letter? If yes, do you remember whom it was from and what it was about? Upon studying the letter from Paul to Philemon (and to each of us), to whom might God be leading you to write a personal letter or connect face to face?
2. Read the Epistle of Paul to Philemon. Who are the main characters and what is their relationship to one another?
3. Read the letter again. This time whenever Paul refers to himself insert the name of Jesus; whenever he refers to Philemon insert your name; and finally whenever he refers to Onesimus insert the name of someone who has hurt, wronged, stolen, runaway from, or betrayed you.
4. Paul’s greeting highlights salvation’s means and its results. What is salvation’s means and what is a result of salvation? See Philemon 3.
5. In the series we’ve just begun in the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians, we have come face to face with the Gospel (see Galatians 1:4). In your own words, how would you answer the question: “What is the Gospel”?

6. Read Philemon 4-7. What are three aspects of the “Character” of one who forgives?

7. Paul asks Philemon (and each of us) for two specific expressions of Christian love. What are they? See Philemon 8-18.

8. Through verses 8-18, what “Actions” of one who forgives does Paul highlight?

9. Identify two “Motives” of one who forgives that Paul identifies in verses 17-25?

10. Two expressions of Christian love are Forgiveness & Reconciliation. What do you learn about each from the following texts of scripture?
 - i. Matthew 6:14-15

 - ii. Matthew 18:23-35

 - iii. Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2

 - iv. Colossians 3:12-17

11. In Philemon verses 18-19 Paul, knowing that Onesimus does not have the means to redeem himself, offers to pay on his behalf. This illustrates the doctrine of _____, which teaches that when Jesus died on the cross, the sins of all people were **put...on His account** and His righteousness credited to anyone who would accept Him.

12. Spend some time in prayer sharing with Jesus how much you adore Him, confessing your sins, thanking Him for bearing those sins as he hung on the cross, and in supplication to the One who loves you...humbly making your requests known to Him.