



WEEK THREE : BECOMING A RECONCILER.

WELCOME:

Ice Breaker Question:

If you could write an autobiography, what would you title it?

WORSHIP:

Sing, O PRAISE THE NAME

Introduction: As an apostle and servant of Christ, Paul encourages Philemon to forgive. He exercises the God-given role of becoming a peacemaker—a minister of reconciliation. Because Philemon obeyed, he did not just get a slave back, but a true brother in Christ committed to building God's kingdom with him. Lord, may you use all our difficult relationships for such an end!

WORD: PHILEMON verses 17-25

Observation Questions:

1. What is Christlike about what Paul offers to do in vs 17-20?
2. Read 15-25. How does Paul draw Philemon's attention to the larger purposes of God? What are they? What does it matter?
- 3) When has an apparent loss or wrongdoing led you to recognize God at work in your life in surprising ways?
- 4) What "benefit in the Lord" does Paul hope to receive from Philemon? (v. 20)
- 5) It is clear from v. 21 what Paul truly expects. What do you make of the way that he says it?
- 6) Verse 22 is a classic example of: "Oh, and one more thing...". Why do you think Paul indicates that once he gets out of prison (as he expects will happen in answer to the many prayers), he wants to come and visit Philemon?

SERMON DISCUSSION

In this final sermon in the series, Pastor Ta gave the following sermon points and application on HOW TO BE A RECONCILER:

1. REFLECT CHRIST IN YOUR ATTITUDE.

Paul's encourages Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would Paul. PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11.

2. REMEMBER HOW CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN YOU.

Paul's encouragement for Philemon to forgive Onesimus' debt points us to Jesus who has forgiven our debts. GALATIANS 3:13-14.

3. RECONCILIATION IS A MINISTRY WE ALL SHARE.

Paul's obedience to Christ's calling ultimately led to Philemon's obedience to Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

Application Questions:

- 1) What parts of the sermon stood out for you?
- 2) How can God use you to bring a godly influence on the people and relationships around you?
- 3) Why does grace play a key role in all that is going on in this book? How do you need to have more grace for those around you?
- 4) God stirred the heart of Paul to help Philemon grow in his love of Onesimus. When has another person helped you to grow in your love of someone else? Who is God sending to help you now?
- 5) Do you think you have played a pivotal role in certain relationships in your life?
- 6) In the end, the relationship between Philemon and Onesimus would be transformed by grace. These men would also be reflecting on Colossians 3:12-15. With God's help, how specifically can you practice the grace taught in that passage this week?

WORK: Commit to be a Reconciler.