

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: Philemon 8-11 – How to make a request that will require obedience to God

Today's Message:

"For Love's Sake"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we began the book of *Philemon* and learned that reconciliation does not begin with an immediate confrontation – but with humility and grace. Our approach to reconciliation may determine if there will be any reconciliation at all. But once the tone and connection are set, a question remains: How do we move from kindness to truth without losing either? Paul will now transition to his petition – from establishing goodwill to making a request that will require obedience, sacrifice, and forgiveness. And **how** he does this is just as instructive to us as **what** he asks. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Philemon 8-11

A. The Right to Command – Paul restrained his God-given authority

1. Paul does not deny his authority – but used **WISDOM** to govern how he used it.

- **Philemon 8** – *Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ TO ENJOIN THEE that which is convenient,*

"Thou I might be much bold" – Paul *could* command; his authority in Christ was legitimate.

"To enjoin thee" – To order or direct with urgency; to admonish or instruct with authority.

"That which is convenient" – Morally right; not optional; fit or suitable; spiritually fitting.

Comparing Scriptures

- **1 Corinth 9:18** – *What is my reward then? ... that I abuse not my power in the gospel.*
- **2 Corinth 1:24** – *Not for that we have **domination over your faith**, but are helpers...*
- **Matthew 20:25-28** – *... Gentiles **exercise dominion**... But it shall not be so among you...*

Key Truths

- Just because we have the right to command does not mean it is right to command.
- Paul did not deny his authority – he declined to wield (*to use with full power*) it.

Practical Applications

- Grace does not coerce (*restrain by force*) obedience – it invites it.

Consider Jesus Christ ...

- ❖ He who spoke **John 18:6** and **Matthew 26:53** also **ALLOWED** men to crucify Him!

2 Corinth 1:23

Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that **TO SPARE YOU I CAME NOT AS YET** unto Corinth.

John 18:6

As soon then as he had said unto them, **I am** he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

Matthew 26:53

Thinkest thou that I cannot NOW pray to my Father, and he shall **presently give me more than twelve LEGIONS** of angels?

2026 VISION: Growth through Discipleship!
Making disciples and caring for souls!

B. The Choice to Appeal – Paul intentionally chose relationship over command.

2. Paul chose **LOVE** as the means of persuasion; he appealed to heart and conscience.

W1828 “beseech”

To plead; to entreat;
to supplicate; to
implore; to ask or
pray with urgency.

Proverbs 16:21

The wise in heart
shall be called
prudent: and the
sweetness of the lips
increaseth learning.

Catching Flies?

A wise man once
said, “You catch
more flies with
honey than with
vinegar.”

- **Philemon 9** – Yet *FOR LOVE’S SAKE I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.*
- **Philemon 10** – *I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:*

“Yet for love’s sake I rather beseech thee” – a choice; seeking restoration, not compliance.
“Paul the aged... prisoner of Jesus Christ” – personal humility; as an elder, sufferer, servant.
“For my son Onesimus” – makes the issue personal; spiritual relationship emphasized

Comparing Scriptures

- **Romans 12:1** – *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God...*
- **Galatians 5:13** – *...use not liberty for an occasion...flesh... but by love serve one another*

Key Truths

- Love is not weakness; it invites obedience; **PRESSURE** often hardens resistance.
- Reconciliation moves forward when we speak of people as souls, not problems.

Practical Applications

- Love opens the heart. Why did Paul mention authority if not going to use it?
- You may win the argument with authority but lose the relationship without love.

C. The Wrong Acknowledged – Paul did not minimize the past hurt and pain.

3. Paul was **HONEST** about the past and sin – but focused on his redemption in Christ.

- **Philemon 11** – *Which IN TIME PAST was to thee unprofitable, BUT NOW profitable to thee and to me:*

“In time past... unprofitable” – the wrong of the past acknowledged, honest about problem.
“But now profitable” – clear about the life change; repentance that is real and observable.
“Onesimus” – useful or profitable; once living contrary to his name, he now is living up to it.

Comparing Scriptures

- **Ephesians 2:1-10** – *And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins**...*
- **Titus 3:3-5** – *For **we ourselves also were sometimes foolish**, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice... envy, hateful... hating one another. BUT AFTER THAT **the kindness and love of God our Saviour** toward man **APPEARED**...*

Key Truth

- Grace does not deny sin – but it does not define or imprison people in it either.

Practical Application

- Onesimus is no longer defined by his past; God’s grace enables **FORGIVENESS**.

The Gospel Parallel:

Before Christ	After Christ
Unprofitable	Profitable
Servant to sin (<i>slave</i>)	Servant to Christ (<i>brother</i>)

2 Corinth 5:17

Therefore if any man
be in Christ, HE IS
a new creature: **old
things are passed
away**; behold, all things
are become new.

Romans 6:22

BUT NOW being made
free from sin, and
**become servants to
God**, ye have your fruit
unto holiness, and the
end everlasting life.