



Studies from Philemon

bridgeBUILDERS

Bridge Builders Tell The Truth

Practical Steps for effective Bridge-Building

Step 1: PUT YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE

"So if you consider me a partner..." {VERSE 17-20}

Paul is putting himself on the line and asking Philemon to join him in the greater good. He directly ask him to receive Onesimus back in good standing.



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OBJECTIONS: #1 That's not my problem!



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Step 1: PUT YOURSELF IN THE MIDDLE

“So if you consider me a partner...” {VERSE 17-20}

OBJECTIONS: #1 That's not my problem!
#2 Who am I to judge?



Practical Steps for effective Bridge-Building

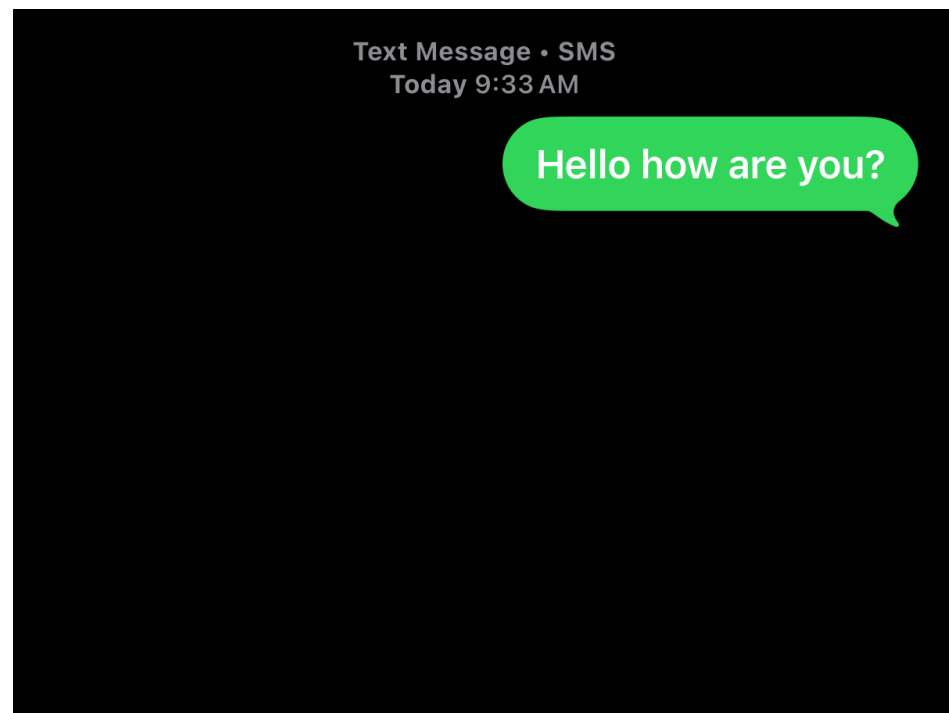
Step 2: SHOULDER THE DEBT

Paul said: "...charge it to me..."

{VERSE 18-19}

Keep in mind Paul was not a rich man. He had to make tents to subsidize his income, just to get by. He was not a wealthy man but was willing to show just how much he cared.





Today, we enlarge our fonts and no one has to know how bad our eyes really are.



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Step 3: APPEAL ON THE BASIS OF FRIENDSHIP

Paul said: "...you owe me your very self..." {VERSE 19}

Paul cashes in every relational coin he has. He's willing to spend all the equity in their friendship—not for himself, but for Onesimus. Real Christian friendship is rare.



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Step 4: BRING THE ISSUE IN THE LIGHT OF LORDSHIP

Paul said: "...refresh my heart in Christ..." {VERSE 20}

**Bridge-builders always focus the conversation back
to the lordship of Jesus.**



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Step 5: Have confidence in their obedience

Paul said: “I am Confident of your obedience...” {VERSE 21}

Paul isn't confident in Philemon; he's confident in the Holy Spirit's work inside Philemon to lead him to obey.



