

Grow. Give. Go.

## FOR LOVE'S SAKE...REFRESH MY HEART

PHILEMON: LESSONS FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO A FRIEND

### PART 4

#### "EXPERIENCING THE GRACE OF EMBRACE"

*"The Life-Changing and Liberating Power of Forgiveness"*  
(Examining Philemon's Role in the Story)

#### INTRODUCTION:

#### FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH:

"When we truly embrace the gospel, it changes the way we \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ those who have \_\_\_\_\_ us."

"...no matter how \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."

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"...no matter how \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."

#### FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION:

"Why was Paul so confident that Philemon would respond as he requested?"

**"Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say." (v. 21)**

#### PREVIOUSLY: THE HEART OF THE LETTER

- **It's Focus:** "Receive Onesimus and refresh my heart."

*"If then you regard me a partner, accept [receive] him as you would me.... Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ."*

- **It's Force:** "For loves's sake..."

*"Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper, yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you...*

#### TODAY: THE HEART OF PHILEMON

- **Philemon is the offended. Onesimus is the offender. And Paul is the Intercessor.**

## PHILEMON, THE GRACE OF EMBRACE...

### 1A. AS A \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE \_\_\_\_\_...

- Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ that Philemon had a \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive. (v. 8)  
“...though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper,...”

- I should forgive \_\_\_\_\_ I have been forgiven.

“...Then summoning him, his lord said to him, “You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?”

—Matthew 18:32, 33

### 2A. AS A \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE \_\_\_\_\_...

- Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ that Philemon had a \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive. (v. 14)  
“...but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.” (v. 14)

- I should forgive \_\_\_\_\_ I have been forgiven.

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

—Colossians 3:12-14

- The one who is ready to forgive, is one who sees \_\_\_\_\_ even in the \_\_\_\_\_ experienced and \_\_\_\_\_ received.

“For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.”

## CONCLUSION: