

The Gospel Changes How I See Others

Text: Philemon 1:8-16

Main Truth

The Gospel not only changes our relationship with God, it changes the way we see and treat other people. When we view others through the lens of the Gospel, we respond with love, grace, mercy, and humility rather than judgment and condemnation.

Icebreaker

1. Have you ever formed a wrong first impression of someone?
2. Why is it easy to make assumptions about people?
3. What influences the way we view others?

Read the Passage

Read Philemon 1:8-16 together.

Observation Questions

- How does Paul describe Onesimus before and after his conversion?
- What change is Paul asking Philemon to make?
- What does this reveal about the power of the Gospel?

1. The Gospel Gives Us New Vision

Read John 9:39-41.

How can pride affect the way we see others?

Why is it dangerous to assume our perspective is always correct?

Personal Reflection: Where might pride be affecting the way you view someone right now?

2. God Sees What We Often Miss

Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

What is the difference between how people see and how God sees?

How would your relationships change if you focused more on people's hearts?

3. Unbelievers Are Not the Enemy

Read Ephesians 6:12 and John 3:17.

Who is our real enemy?

How does Jesus' mission shape our mission?

4. Fellow Believers Need Grace Too

Read Matthew 7:1-2 and Proverbs 19:11.

What happens when we stop viewing others through the lens of the Gospel?

What does it mean to overlook an offense?

5. The Gospel Produces Humility

Read Romans 3:10-26.

What does this passage teach about humanity?

Why does understanding the Gospel make pride difficult to maintain?

Key Insight:

- We are all sinners.
- None of us earned God's favor.
- Jesus is the only truly righteous One.
- We all stand in need of grace.

Heart Check

I regularly view people through the lens of the Gospel. _____

I am quick to extend grace to others. _____

I see unbelievers as people who need Jesus. _____

I am humble when dealing with difficult people. _____

I seek to love rather than condemn. _____

This Week's Challenge

Ask God to reveal one person you have been viewing with flawed vision. Pray for them daily and look for one practical way to show them grace, mercy, or love.

Memory Verse

1 John 3:1

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for showing us grace through Jesus Christ. Help us see others through the lens of the Gospel. Remove pride, judgment, and condemnation from our hearts. Give us the mind of Christ so that we may love others with the same grace and mercy You have shown us. Amen.