



## Friendology

### Week three - "Chosen Family"

#### Philemon 1

**Bottom line: We befriend each other on the basis of love, not on the basis of obligation or fairness or lack of difference.**

1. Who are some of the more difficult people, or types of people, for you to love? Why?
2. What do you think Rebecca McLaughlin means when she says, "The church is not just *like* a family. It *is* a family. Our first identity as followers of Jesus is not biological. It's theological."?
3. Why is the idea of the church as "the family of God" both messy and good?
4. Read Paul's letter to Philemon
  - a. How do you think Philemon felt when he first read this letter? How might you feel in his shoes?
  - b. Now imagine yourself in Onesimus' shoes - how do you think he felt? What kind of fears and expectations might he have had about how this new friendship with Philemon would go?
  - c. What precedent was Paul setting for relationships in the Church?
  - d. How does God choosing us make it easier for us to choose each other?
5. Share any stories you have about unlikely friendships - yours or others you may have observed.
6. How can you make a move toward befriending someone who is different from you?

#### Summer Reading list:

The Four Loves by C.S. Lewis  
Befriend by Scott Sauls  
Made for Friendship by Drew Hunter  
No Greater Love by Rebecca McLaughlin  
Find Your People by Jennie Allen

#### Bonus reading:

How to Know a Person by David Brooks  
Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner