

Accepting Your Brother

Philemon 8-25

We are all better people because we know Jesus as our Savior. We are all human, and sinners by nature, have faults & flaws. Sometimes it is hard for us to accept our brother or sister, but we know that the Bible teaches us that we should, and that we love them.

Why? Because we are related in Christ. Someday we will all spend eternity together.

When we find ourselves related with a common bond, it naturally follows that we ought to love one another.

In Philemon 8-25 we have three gentle nudges that Paul gives to Philemon to get him to accept his brother.

THE APPEAL (vs. 8-13)

- For Onesimus (vs. 8-11)
- The Second chance (vs. 12-13)

Secondly, we have in the way a gentle nudge Paul gave to get him to accept his brother:

THE REMINDER (vs. 14-16)

- Of God's mysterious ways (vs. 14-15)
- Philemon is a brother to Onesimus (vs. 16)

Thirdly we have:

THE OFFER (vs. 17-22)

- To repay the wrong (vs. 17-19)

Paul made another offer: To use the guest room (vs. 20-22)

What we have shared together from Philemon today is the idea that perhaps there is someone in your life that you should give a break.

Why? Because it is the Christian thing to do.

Being that the Lord is gracious to us is something that we should remind ourselves to do over and over for others.

Discussion Questions

Philemon 8-25

1. [Read vs. 8-9] What lessons can we learn from Paul about leadership? Have you ever had to confront someone, how did that go? If you need to confront someone in the future, how will you do it differently?
2. [Read vs. 10-15] Let's take some liberties here in constructing the story, what would you surmise happened between Philemon and Onesimus? What would you guess occurred that Paul came to know Onesimus. What about Onesimus must have warmed the heart of Paul enough to plea on his behalf?
3. [Read vs 15-16 and Romans 8:28] It appears that Paul perceived that in these circumstances God was using it for the good of the parties involved. Share an experience in your life that happened that showed you that God was working out a greater purpose in your life.
4. In vs.17-19, Paul asks to pay for all the consequences Onesimus has coming, reminding Philemon that he owes him his very life. What do you think Paul did to make him so indebted?
5. From historical records it appears that many, if not all the names, of people mentioned in this book ultimately were martyred for their faith in Christ. How likely do you feel it is possible for this to happen to us one day? How would it affect your life if you knew this was probable? Would it change how you feel about God?