

Sermon Follow-up | May 31, 2020

21 Letters — Paul's Priorities: Reconciled Relationships

Focus Passage: Philemon 1–25

Corollary Scripture: Ephesians 2:11–21

Other Passages Referenced: Colossians 4:7–9

Sermon Recap: The letters in the New Testament move “from announcing the gospel to defending the gospel through applying the gospel to every aspect of life.” That includes personal relationships. Paul’s letter to Philemon provides a roadmap to reconciliation. There are three stops along the route: (1) respond to the gospel with repentance, (2) rename the repentant, and (3) receive the repentant brother or sister as Jesus has received you. Paul took what Jesus had done for him and applied it to his relationship with Philemon. Then Paul asked Philemon to apply to Onesimus what Paul had done for Philemon.

Study Helps

- Here are just some of the major truths the Bible says about our identity as believers in Jesus as Messiah:
 - We are forgiven (Eph 1:6–8; Rom 8:1, 38)
 - We are reconciled with God (Rom 5:10; 2 Cor 5:18–19; Col 1:21–22)
 - We have been redeemed (Eph 1:13–14; Heb 9:12; 1 Pet 1:18)
 - We have been chosen by God (Rom 8:30; Eph 1:4; 1 Pet 2:9)
 - We have been justified and counted righteous before God (Rom 3:23–26, 5:1; 8:1, 30)
 - We have been accepted into God’s people (1 Pet 2:10)
 - We have received new life (Rom 6:11; 8:9–11; Eph 2:4–5)

Group Gathering Interaction

Connect: Making Honest Connections with One Another (Pick one)

1. Please share briefly one of the following:
 - a. What new name has God called you that most encourages you? (Consider the bulleted points in the Study Helps above.)
 - b. How has God reminded you this week of the great gift He has given you?
 - c. What has God been saying to you through His word, the sermon, or other people?

Grow: Listening to and Learning from God’s Word

Read Philemon 1–25

1. How would you explain the relationship between faith and repentance to a non-Christian? Has your understanding of repentance changed since you first came to faith?

2. A new name for the repentant: How do the truths about our identity in Christ listed in the Study Helps compare with who were before coming to faith?
3. What parallels do we find in Paul's intervention on behalf of Onesimus with Jesus' intervention on behalf of Paul and of us? ... Can you note some parallels between Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan? ... How about the way Ananias ministered to Saul as part of Saul's conversion in Damascus?

Serve: Serving King Jesus and Others, By Living Out and Letting Others Know God's Word

1. Have you been calling someone "enemy" that you need to be calling "brother", "sister", "son", or "daughter"?
2. The sermon mentioned that real reconciliation is dependent upon repentance—"repentance precedes reconciliation." However, we can forgive people before they repent, or even if they never repent. Do you need to forgive anyone, even if you don't need to pursue a relationship with them?
3. The video clip in the sermon showed the legacy of spiritual parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. The Chapel was a daughter church of the Virginia Beach Chapel and now the Chapel has a daughter church in Eastside. How does the importance of leaving a spiritual legacy impact your thoughts on the church's continuing ministry? ... How about with your personal ministry legacy of making disciples?

Further Resources

- Bible Project –
 - Philemon – <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=63>
- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org