

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. Has your relationship with other Christians been effected by someone that wronged you or that you wronged? How has that broken relationship(s) affected your joy in the church? What happens to those unhealed relational wounds over time?
2. Paul tells us Christian forgiveness should be bundled with abundant kindness, like God did when he forgave us through Jesus. In light of the way Paul describes Christian forgiveness, would you say you have forgiven others in a Christian way? How has Philemon changed the way you think of Christian forgiveness?
3. Why would it have been difficult for Philemon to accept Paul's generosity when it came to covering Onesimus' debt?
4. Why might Christians in Colossae have been upset when Philemon heeded Paul's appeal to forgive Onesimus' large debt? What would motivate that anger?
5. What did Paul put in place to help Philemon forgive? What can we put in place to help others forgive and restore their broken relationships?
6. Mark is mentioned in the closing of Colossians and Philemon. How do you think Mark and Paul's restored relationship encouraged Philemon and Onesimus as they worked to forgive and restore their relationship? How much positive influence do our forgiven and restored relationships have on others in the church?
7. Are there Christians you know that are at odds with one another? Is there something you could do to help them reconcile?
8. **Read Genesis 50:15-21 and Romans 8:28.** How did realizing God's sovereignty over the wrongs done to him help Joseph forgive his brothers? How does knowing God is sovereign even over the wrongs done to us help us forgive?
9. **Read 1 Peter 3:8-9 and Romans 12:20.** In Philemon, Paul challenges Philemon to not just forgive Onesimus but to give him abundant kindness. In a similar way, Peter reminds us to not repay evil with evil but to repay evil with blessing. How does this challenge the way we think about Christian-style forgiveness?



Philemon 16-25 - Restoration

January 21, 2018

1. Review from last week

1. Forgiveness encourages the church.
2. Forgiveness is essential for Christian growth.
3. Forgiveness can not be demanded.
4. Repentance encourages forgiveness.

2. Forgiveness includes abundant kindness.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me.
Philemon 17 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32 (ESV)

3. Forgiveness means restoring what was lost.

If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Philemon 18–19 (ESV)

by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:14 (ESV)

4. Forgiveness refreshes the church.

Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. Philemon 20 (ESV)

For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Philemon 7 (ESV)

5. When mature Christians forgive, they do not look for a loophole to avoid making things right.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. Philemon 21 (ESV)

6. Gentle accountability helps with forgiveness.

At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you. Philemon 22 (ESV)

7. Conclusion

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Philemon 23–25 (ESV)

Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), Colossians 4:10 (ESV)