



## Philemon ... A Story of Betrayal and Restoration

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

September 2, 2019

## Truth for Life

For the week of September 2, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

*Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love ... that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. –*

Philemon 8-11

### Betrayal and Restoration ... Philemon 1-25

#### Key Players and the Back Story

#### Paul's Tweet and Philemon's Letter

- **Forgive** him
- **Restore** him
- **Receive** him as a brother

#### How Do I Live Out Faith in a Pagan Culture?

- With **Patience**
- And a lot of **Tact**
- Utilizing the Influence of a **Personal Appeal**
- Remember the Power of **Personal Example**
- Take the **Initiative**
- Ultimately ... Love **God** and the **Person** in Front of You

### Our Take Away ...

- 1) God is in **control** of who is in **control**.
- 2) When we do wrong – we need to **make it right**.  
When we've been wronged – we need to **let it go**.
- 3) It's always better to **motivate** than **legislate**.

1. This weekend we heard about the “second chance” story of Onesimus coming back to his hometown, his church, and ultimately to the family he wronged! Do you have a personal experience of a positive second chance story from your own life? What happened? Who was the one that offered the “second chance?” How has your relationship with that person changed since then?
2. When it comes to accepting others, we need to use good judgment and be careful of falling into one of two extremes – blind acceptance or critical judgement. Which one are you more likely to move towards? Have you seen your tendency change over time? What has initiated that change?
3. Understanding who we are in God's eyes and his love and acceptance of us, is foundational to understanding how to love and accept others. As you read each verse below, note what it says about God's love and acceptance and then number each passage from one to seven in the order most meaningful to you.

Romans 5:8	Romans 3:23	Matthew 10:29-31
John 3:16	Genesis 1:27	Psalms 130:13-14
	1 Peter 2:9	

Why did you choose the passage you labeled as “1” or most important?

4. Have you found that changing a habit or attitude is often very difficult? Why do you think change is so difficult? Why doesn't God usually change us instantaneously rather than gradually? Is there value in struggling through the change?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
  - a. A person who professes to know Christ, but who has an angry temper, asks, “How can I change?” Your answer?
  - b. Is there a difference between liking someone and loving him (or her)? If so, what is it? Must we like everyone in the church?
  - c. Why is it important to see God's glory as the primary reason to work at restoring broken relationships? What implications does this have?
  - d. How would you counsel someone who was finding it difficult to forgive someone else? What biblical principles apply?