



Refresh my Heart in Christ
4th in the “For Love’s Sake” Series
Philemon 17-25, p. 1000
October 1, 2017

Introduction

In this passage God exhorts us to live out our reconciliation to God in our relationships with others.

The Text: Philemon 17-25

1) Reconciliation happens when the Christian applies justification by faith to others (vv. 17-20).

2) Reconciliation happens when we “rightly” respond to the gospel (vv. 21-25).

Response

- Not simply Paul to Philemon but God the Father to us: “Refresh my heart in Christ.”
 - With whom do you need reconciliation?
 - Gospel-directed steps to take for reconciliation:
 - (1) Pray and ask the Lord to reveal a fellow Christian with whom reconciliation is needed.
 - (2) Pray and ask the Lord to impress upon you the gospel and your own experience of justification by faith so that you can see that person in their true identity as your brother/sister, and in the context of *koinonia*.
 - (3) Take appropriate steps to make grace-drenched contact and have a grace-filled conversation with the goal being understanding and healing.
 - (4) Apologize as needed, repay as needed, and seek true restoration, even if misunderstanding and pain remains.
 - (5) Be willing to seek real forgiveness (confess/repent), and be willing to give real forgiveness.

Sunday Text Questions for Philemon 17-25

October 1, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Can you share an example (your own or a situation you know) where reconciliation was needed between two people? How did reconciliation happen (or not)?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification. Because it is short and interrelated, you may want to read the entire letter.
- 3) The word translated as “partner” in v. 17 is a form of the same Greek word used in v. 6 – *koinonia*, referring to those who share in/partner in the grace of the gospel. How does that kind of “spiritual partnership” necessarily pressure Philemon to respond to Paul’s request?
- 4) How does (or should) your “spiritual partnership” in the gospel with other Christians affect how you relate to them and deal with conflicts?
- 5) How can Paul offer in vv. 18-19a to receive the debt Onesimus owes Philemon? How does that model the gospel – how Jesus takes on the debt we owe to God?
- 6) Paul’s comment at the end of v. 19 suggests that he led Philemon to faith or ministered significantly to him. What kind of debt might we owe to those who introduced us to Christ or significantly ministered to us?
- 7) Is Paul’s request in v. 20 unfair, that a person who ministers should get something in return? How should that verse be rightly understood and applied today?
- 8) Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. How is this text relevant to Philemon? How should we apply this text in the contemporary church?
- 9) Read Galatians 3:26-29. How is this text relevant to Philemon? How should we apply this text in the contemporary church?
- 10) How has God used this series through the book of Philemon to teach you or to exhort you to act in a certain way?

Further study this week: Ron 3:21-26 on justification by faith (Mon); Eph 4:1-16 on unity among Christians (Tues); Ruth 1:1-18 on the bond between the family of God (Wed); 2 Cor 5:16-21 on reconciliation (Thurs); Gal 3:26-29 on new and equal identity in Christ (Fri).