

Sermon Guide

Philemon 1:1-7



► Dr. David E. Garland states, "Philemon helps us put things in proper perspective with its extraordinary emphasis on right relationships based on love and forgiveness. Some people believe that Christianity only needs to change what we believe. This letter makes it clear that it also needs to change how we treat other people." Does your relationship

with Christ affect how you treat other people? How?

Read the book of Philemon

1. How does the way Paul introduce himself in Philemon (v. 1) compare to the way he introduces himself in other letters (Ro., Eph., 1 Cor., etc.)? Why do you think it is different?
2. Why do you think Paul addressed this personal letter to not only Philemon, but also to his household and the church that meets in his home (v. 2)?
3. What qualities in Philemon does Paul commend?
4. Given the seriousness of the crime committed by Onesimus, what impact will his return have on Philemon's household?



- Which of the qualities in Philemon do you wish to develop for yourself? How could doing so cause you to grow in new areas?
► How would this change the way you treat your family or others in your home?



- Paul uses a standard greeting in Philemon, but it means so much more. Philemon 1:3 states, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." As Christians, the grace we have received from God should overflow into our relationships with others. The peace and reconciled relationship that we have with God through Jesus Christ should characterize our lives and we should strive to make peace with others whenever possible. Listen to the song, read the lyrics, and/or sing along to "Love Take Me Over," by Steven Curtis Chapman. May our lives be characterized by the love that we ourselves have so graciously received.

GROW
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