

HANDLING CHURCH CONFLICT



WEEK 1: THE PRIORITY OF RECONCILIATION
(BOOK OF PHILEMON)



Colossians 3:11-15a

Here there is no Greek or Jew,
circumcised or uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave or free,
but Christ is all, and is in all.



Colossians 3:11-15a

Therefore, as God's chosen people,
holy and dearly loved, clothes
yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness and
patience.



Colossians 3:11-15a

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.



Colossians 3:11-15a

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace...



Philemon

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home:



Philemon

**Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I always thank my God as I remember you
in my prayers, because I hear about your
faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for
all the saints.**



Philemon

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.



Philemon

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.



Philemon

Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul – an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus –



Philemon

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 to both you and me.



Philemon

I am sending him – who is my very heart – back to you. I would have like to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do that without your consent,



Philemon

so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced.

Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good –



Philemon

no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.



Philemon

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.



Philemon

**I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand.
I will pay it back – not to mention that you
owe me your very self.**

**I do wish, brother, that I may have some
benefit from you in the Lord;
refresh my heart in Christ.**



Philemon

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.



Philemon

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.



Beyond forgiveness to **RECONCILIATION**

HANDLING CHURCH CONFLICT



WEEK 1: THE PRIORITY OF RECONCILIATION
(BOOK OF PHILEMON)



“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.”

- C.S. Lewis



Colossians 4:1

Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.



FOR ONESIMUS

Own up to your sin.



FOR ONESIMUS

Colossians 4:7-9

“Tychicus will tell you all the news about me; he is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow slave in the Lord.



FOR ONESIMUS

Colossians 4:7-9

“I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts;



FOR ONESIMUS

Colossians 4:7-9

“he is coming with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.”



FOR PHILEMON

Forgive your brother.



FOR PHILEMON

Philemon 17

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Which man has the
harder task??



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What is at the heart of
conflict??

PRIDE!



Romans 12:3

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment...



WHY??



WHY??

1) For the good of the
BODY OF CHRIST



Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.



WHY??

- 1) For the good of the **BODY OF CHRIST**
- 2) For the **GLORY OF GOD**





FATHER FORGIVE

THE CROSS OF RECONCILIATION
This cross was erected in 1862
to commemorate the signing of the
Treaty of 1763 which ended the
Seven Years War. It was the first
cross of its kind in the world.
The cross was made of wood
and was the first of its kind
in the world. It was the first
cross of its kind in the world.
The cross was made of wood
and was the first of its kind
in the world. It was the first
cross of its kind in the world.

HANDLING CHURCH CONFLICT



WEEK 1: THE PRIORITY OF RECONCILIATION
(BOOK OF PHILEMON)