



Philemon's Perspective

Brent Moody · Philemon 1:1–16 · Series: **Preserving Fellowship**

INTRODUCTION

- Philemon was undeniably wronged by Onesimus.
- It's easy to admire forgiveness when someone else has to practice it, but it's different when you're the one who's been betrayed.
- So many New Testament passages teach us about fellowship in principle, but Philemon shows us what it looks like when life gets messy.

1 Remember Who You Are

Colossians 3:13; Colossians 3:22–25; Philemon 1:4–7

- So, Paul wants Philemon thinking in a godly way.
- The first thing that Paul does in this moment is to remind Philemon who he is.
- I've heard of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints.
- The hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.
- Our hardest moments do not form our character, they reveal it.
- Preserving fellowship in a body like this begins long before a conflict ever arises, in how I'm working to shape my character so that when those moments do come, the right things are pouring out of me.

2 Remember to Whom You Belong

Matthew 12:50; Philemon 1:16; Matthew 18:15

- The idea of family is extremely important, that spiritual family is actually greater than physical family.
- Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.
- No longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.
- If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.
- It's bigger than just being right or wrong, it's about the relationship that also exists.
- Do we not think God cares how His children are treated, even when they've been in the wrong?

3 Remember What's at Stake

Philemon 1:6; Matthew 18:21–35; Matthew 7:1–2

- I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.
- The way you handle this situation I'm about to bring up will influence the sharing and the effectiveness of the sharing of your faith.

- This principle that to be forgiven, we have to be forgiving people.
- If I want to receive mercy, I have to be merciful.
- If I really am seriously hurt or offended or upset, I humbly approach them, not just pretending everything's okay when it's not, but actually addressing the issue.
- He wants Philemon's goodness to come from the heart because he wants true fellowship, not pretend peace.

THE CHALLENGE

But now how are we going to handle this? How are we going to move forward for the betterment of everyone?

MY NOTES
