



Oscar Chavez - Lead Pastor - 8/20/23

Series: Philemon V.8-19. "A Living Lesson on Forgiveness". Pt.3

*"Helping people experience the Hope  
found in a life-changing relationship with Jesus".*

God is a God of forgiveness.

God's forgiveness of us is based in our forgiveness of others.

## Philemon

<sup>4</sup> *I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon, <sup>5</sup> because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all of God's people.*

<sup>6</sup> *And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. <sup>7</sup> Your love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother, for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people.*

*Paul's Appeal for Onesimus*

<sup>8</sup> *That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do.*

<sup>9</sup> *But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus.*

<sup>10</sup> *I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison.*

<sup>11</sup> *Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us.*

<sup>12</sup> *I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.*

<sup>13</sup> *I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf. <sup>14</sup> But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced.*

<sup>15</sup> *It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. <sup>16</sup> He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.*

<sup>17</sup> *So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. <sup>19</sup> I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!*

- Can you forgive without reconciliation?
- What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?

**There are three different People in this process of forgiveness and reconciliation.**

## **1. The “Offender”**

## **2. The “Mediator”**

## **3. The “Sufferer”**

**What does the Bible say about reconciliation between believers?**

**Ephesians 2:15-18.**

*16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.*

Romans 12:18 <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

**God is the greatest example of reconciliation.**

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

*<sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"*

**Application:**

With whom do you identify yourself in this process?