

Sermon Study Guide



Charge It to My Account

July 25, 2021 | Ptr. John Patrick Lim

Reflect

Is there someone in your life with whom you have a rift with, someone who hurt or wronged you? What makes it difficult for you to forgive that person?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Philemon 1:25

Discussion Questions

1. The reality of living in a broken world is that it is hard to avoid conflicts. In Philemon 1-25 we learn how to cultivate a heart of forgiveness. Who was Philemon? How did he become a believer in Christ? Who was Onesimus? What terrible thing did he do to Philemon and what happened to him after this incident? How did Paul minister to both Philemon and Onesimus?
2. **Forgiveness is a manifestation of God's grace through us (v. 4-7).** How was Philemon growing in his faith? What does God want to happen when his grace abounds in your life? What are the ways you can extend His grace to someone else? Are there any rifts or tensions in your relationships that you think necessitates you to extend extra grace in the form of forgiveness?
3. **We are all God's work in progress and there is no life that God cannot change (v. 8-11).** What did Paul say was his relationship with Onesimus? Do you believe that the problematic people connected to you by blood or relationship could ever change? Why or why not? How do you think God is working in your life when you can see that He is changing the person you have a grudge with? Are you learning to bestow forgiveness in the process?
4. **Sometimes, God allows conflicts to accomplish greater purposes in our relationships (v. 12-16).** Paul could have used Onesimus as his own helper, but why did he

send him back to Philemon? How do you respond when you think of those who wronged you? Have you ever asked God to change your heart so that you can treat the other person the way that pleases the Lord? Share a seemingly bad experience you went through that turned out to be a blessing.

5. **God can use your life to be an instrument of reconciliation (v. 17-21).** To what extent was Paul ready to be involved in the reconciliation between Philemon and Onesimus? Have you ever experienced being an instrument in reconciling people who are in conflict? How did it turn out? How is your life testimony an example of what it means to forgive and be reconciled?

Respond

In Walk: Is there a person that caused you a serious hurt, a co-worker who has maligned you, someone you trusted who took away something from you, that boss who insulted you, or a family member who has seriously offended you? How is our heart toward them? Do you see them in light of God, the fact that He has placed them in your life? Have you extended grace and forgiveness towards them?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the life story of Paul, Philemon, and Onesimus. Indeed, we can learn something from each of them: humility to ask forgiveness and a willingness to reconcile, believing that we are all your work in progress. May You also help us to be instruments of reconciliation. What a relief it is for us when we know how to forgive! Bless us, Lord, with a life that gives glory to Your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.