



“The Immaculate Reception ”

Acceptance among Believers
Philemon 1:10-20

We actively receive others through:

I. Fostering – “I beseech thee for my son” (vs. 10-13)

Seeing believers as:

- A. **Progeny** – “whom I have begotten in my bonds”
- B. **Profitable** – “but now profitable to thee and to me”
- C. **Precious** - “receive him that is, mine own bowels”

II. Figuring - “without thy mind would I do nothing” (vs. 14-16)

Stewarding:

- A. **Property** – “that thy benefit should not be as ...necessity”
- B. **Providence** - “perhaps he departed for a season”
- C. **Position** - “now...above a servant, a brother beloved”

III. Forgiving - “If he hath wronged thee” (vs. 17-20)

Sharing the:

- A. **Esteem** – “If thou count me therefore as a partner”
- B. **Expense** - “I do not say...how thou owes unto me”
- C. **Expectation** – “brother, let me have joy of you in the Lord”

Sentence Sermon:

“Let’s receive one another as we would want our children to be received.”

Additional Verses

- *Genesis 50:20*
- *I Corinthians 4:15*
- *I Timothy 1:2*
- *Romans 4:1-4*
- *I Thessalonians 4:9-10*
- *Colossians 4:9-14*
- *Romans 8:28*
- *II Corinthians 9:7*
- *I Peter 3:8-9*
- *Hebrews 10:24*
- *Colossians 3:13-14*
- *Romans 14:10; 15:1-2*
- *Romans 13:8*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words or phrases in this passage?
2. Who is the central character of the passage?
3. Why would Paul call Onesimus profitable?
4. What was the motivating factor for Paul to beg Philemon?
5. Who profited from Paul’s request to Philemon?
6. Why does Paul’s example in verse 14 teach us about ministry?
7. What reason does Paul give for Philemon to forgive in verse 15?
8. What doctrine does verses 17 and 18 illustrate?
9. What principle of forgiveness is alluded to in verse 19?
10. Is Paul’s expectation in verse 20 reasonable for us today?
11. How difficult was it for Philemon to receive Onesimus?
12. Why is it so hard for some believers to receive others?