

THE PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Philemon 1-7

Does Jesus Christ make a difference in the infuriating aftermath of injustice?

Matthew 18:21-22 – Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Luke 11:4 – And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us.

Luke 17:3-4 – Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Ephesians 4:32 – And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Colossians 3:13 – Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

1-7

"Philemon, I'm praying you will forgive Onesimus"

8-19

"Philemon, I'm appealing to you to forgive Onesimus"

20-25

"Philemon, I'm confident you'll forgive Onesimus"

~ 3 parts of Paul's prayer for forgiveness ~

THE RELATIONSHIP IN THE PRAYER

Philemon 1-3

Avalanche of names: Paul, Timothy, Apphia, Archippus, God the Father, Lord Jesus Christ, and Colossian church

"Philemon, what you do with Onesimus affects a whole lot of people"

There would be pressure and accountability to forgive and restore Onesimus

THE REJOICING IN THE PRAYER

Philemon 4-5, 7

Why was Paul so grateful for Philemon? People were gossiping good things about him

1. YOU LOVE CHRIST

People were talking about Philemon's genuine faith & obvious passion for Christ

2. YOU LOVE YOUR CHURCH

People were talking about Philemon's obvious love for his church family

1 Thessalonians 2:8 – Being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

*I love the church, my fam'ly o'er the earth
Sinners estranged, made one through second birth.
In selfless love, Christ claimed us as His own,
And that same love from each to each is shown.*

May Christ be praised: "Preeminent! Adored!"

I love the church because I love her Lord!

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THE REQUESTS OF THE PRAYER

Philemon 6

1. YOUR FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST WOULD IMPACT THE CHURCH

"Effectual" = effective, powerful, full of impact

When you came to faith in Christ, you forever became part of a privileged fellowship

We are a band of brothers who enjoy and share in the same standing, status, and privileges in Christ

This fellowship cares for one another – loves – forgives – fights – sacrifices – gives

If Philemon will forgive and reconcile with brother Onesimus, the ripple effects will be enormous in the church

Matthew 5:44 – But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

2. YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST WOULD IMPACT YOU

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

At new birth, God placed within you His ability, capacity, and motivation to forgive

"Philemon, I'm praying that who you are in Christ and what you have in Christ would so impact you that you would treat everyone in the church as those who are just as privileged as you"

1 Peter 2:23-24 – Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him to judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Christ has suffered as you are suffering right now – and infinitely more so

But instead of hating, He trusted His Father to deal with the offender

Matthew 18:6 – But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

2 Timothy 4:14 – Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

Jesus will deal justly with those who cause offense

Our responsibility is to speak up, trust Him, and be eager to forgive