

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Philemon 20-25

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

~ Notice 2 powerful results of forgiveness from Philemon's letter ~

YOU WILL REFRESH HEARTS IN THE CHURCH

Philemon 20-21

If Philemon forgives Onesimus, it will lift a load off the heart of Paul
But if he refuses Onesimus, it will add weight to chains of Paul's imprisonment
His unforgiving spirit will discredit the whole teaching of the gospel
His coldness will proclaim Jesus Christ makes no difference in injustice
His refusal to reconcile will put him at odds with the God of reconciliation
His lack of true love will hurt the hearts of God's people

YOU WILL REINFORCE HARMONY IN THE CHURCH

Philemon 22-25

Romans 15:7 – Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Galatians 6:10 – As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Ephesians 4:3 – Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Philippians 4:2 – I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

1 Peter 1:22 – ...see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

So important was harmony in the church that Paul would hold his friend accountable
May the health of the church loom larger than our hurt
May the health of the church loom larger than our comfortableness

The five men who sent greetings to Philemon made an obvious point: You can't live independently of the body

The ability to forgive comes not from you – It only comes by God's gracious enablement