

Benefitted by Fellowship

Philemon 8-25

Review

Text – Getting a sense of the story

- Elements of the Appeal - Not based in vested authority

Paul does not refer to his authority

He says he is not using his authority

The humility of Paul

- What is required?

V 17 & 21

- Why is it required?

Christianity changes relationships

V 15-16 – Brother

V 17 – Partner

V10 – Father and Son

V 12-13 – Slave to Minister

V 15-16 – Debtor/Thief to Brother

Christianity changes character

- Possible misinterpretation or missed details

Partnership of faith is based on trust and honesty

Partnership of faith is based on real humility

Christianity does not free a person from earthly obligation, law, or debt

Wednesday Discussion

Philemon 8-25

1. Would you rather do business with a Christian or a non-Christian?
2. Tell us more. Why or why not?
3. How are Paul and Philemon 'sharing faith' and how can we do that?
4. Can we have fellowship in social groups outside the church?
5. Should Christian fellowship be a priority? Why or why not?
6. How would you phrase the purpose Paul gives for fellowship in v 6?
7. Why has Onesimus become useful?
8. How has he become useful?
9. Does the way in which Paul approaches this appeal seem manipulative? If so, how?
10. If we agree he is not nor would be manipulative, to what do you attribute Paul's manner of speaking in this appeal?
11. Take a stab at describing this appeal/story in terms of a modern day example.
12. How do we prevent ourselves from feeling suspicious and untrusting? Are there times to be wary? How does one decide which way to act?
13. Can proper Christian fellowship change the world?