



CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
Loving God, Loving People

Forgiveness

“The Role of Peacemaker”

Philemon

The Approach (1-7)

The Appeal (8-22)

- **The Appeal to Brotherhood (8-16)**
- **The Appeal to Peace (17-22)**

Cause of Conflict:

- **Sinful and Selfish Desires (Ja. 4:1-2b)**

Overcoming Conflicts: our response

- **Escape (Fly and Deny)**
- **Attack (Fight for rights – verbal assaults)**
- **Peacemaking (forgive and reconcile)**
- **Have Faith in Jesus (Col. 1:21-22)**
- **Be Humble (Phil. 2:3-8)**
- **Seek Peace (Ro. 12:8)**

Lu.17:3-4 .. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Seven A's of Confession (Peacemaker, Ken Sande):

- 1. Address everyone involved**
- 2. Avoid if, but, and maybe**
- 3. Admit specifically**
- 4. Acknowledge the hurt**
- 5. Accept the consequences**
- 6. Alter your behavior**
- 7. Ask for forgiveness**

Ma. 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

The Bible says that forgiveness means:

1. **Resisting revenge (Ro. 12:9),**
2. **Not returning evil for evil (1 Thess. 5:15)**
3. **Wishing them well (Lu. 6:28)**
4. **Praying for their welfare (Matt. 5:44)**

Peacemaking promises to Make:

[1] **“I will not think about this incident.”**

[2] **“I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.”**

[3] **“I will not talk to others about this incident.”**

[4] **“I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.”**

Food For Thought:

The apostle Paul’s letter to Philemon illustrates that Christians are to be peacemakers and seek reconciliation among others like the slave Onesimus, and encourage others to do the same, beginning with the act of forgiveness- both internal and external.

1. Do you think Philemon did what Paul asked of him? In what way could Philemon have been right to refuse Paul?

2. Like Onesimus, do you have something you need to make right with someone?

3. When do you feel obligated to forgive someone: only when they confess their sin against you? For whom might you serve as a “Paul” in peacemaking ?

Bible Text

Philemon

(ESV)

Greeting

1 Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker 2 and Apphia our sister and Archippus our)fellow soldier, and (E)the church in your house: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

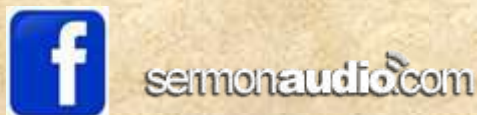
4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, 6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. 7 For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— 10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to

you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. (AB) Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

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Pastor Bernie's weekly "My Captive Thought" blog is available on-line at <http://mycaptiveThought.wordpress.com/>.

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Lots of information and quick links to selected sermons in English and Spanish. Links to our Facebook page, sermon audio page, and Pastor Bernie's Blog. Be sure to check out the Announcements to keep up with our current series and what's next!

Our Mission: Christ Community Church exists to worship God, fellowship in community and build the body of Christ by making disciples, baptizing them and teaching them until the Lord Jesus Christ returns (Acts 2:42-47, Mt. 28:18-20, Eph. 4:11-16).

Rev. Bernie Diaz

Pastor, Christ Community Church

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And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers. – Acts 2:42 (NKJV)