

## **A Roadmap for Restored Relationships (Pt. 2)**

*Philemon 8–19*

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**MAIN IDEA:** Paul's letter to Philemon provides a powerful and personal message for us: the priority of relationship in the body of Christ, particularly the restoration of broken relationships through Jesus Christ our Lord. This letter provides both the motivation and the pattern for reconciliation—both of which are connected to the gospel. In this text, we discover 4 aspects of biblical restoration.

### **OUTLINE:**

- I. The Parties Involved (1-3)
  - A. The Mediator: Paul
  - B. The Offended: Philemon
  - C. The Offender: Onesimus
  - D. The Others Affected: Apphia, Archippus, and the Church
- II. The Prerequisites Required (4-7)
  - A. Faith in Jesus Christ
  - B. Love for Other Believers
  - C. Zeal for Christian Fellowship
  - D. Desire for Christ's Glory
- III. The Pattern Demonstrated (8-19)
  - A. The General Appeal for Reconciliation (8-11)
  - B. The Specific Ingredients of Reconciliation (12-19)
    - 1. A Biblical Expression of Repentance (12-14)
    - 2. A Careful Consideration of Providence (15-16)
    - 3. A Gracious Restoration of Relationship (17)
    - 4. A Sincere Discussion of Restitution (18-19)

### **BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS**

1. Read James 3:13–18. What two categories of wisdom are described in these verses? What are the characteristics of each category of wisdom that James lists? Discuss these characteristics and determine which category of wisdom you tend to operate by.

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Are there any relationships you have with *Christians* that are fractured and need to be restored? As we've discovered in Philemon, what is a biblical, practical path forward?
2. Are there any relationships you have with *unbelievers* that are fractured and need to be restored? What is a biblical, practical path forward? Is this path forward any different than your response to a Christian? Discuss.
3. What have you learned from our study of Philemon so far—and how have you been directly impacted by the truth of this letter? Besides considering reconciliation, how has this letter helped you grow in your walk with Christ? discuss.