

A Roadmap for Restored Relationships

Philemon 1–7

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Jonathan Anderson

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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

BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16–21. What does this passage teach us about reconciliation and the gospel? What does it mean that we as Christians are to actively participate in the ministry of reconciliation?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is demonstrating our love for the brothers and sisters of Countryside key for the health and vitality of our church? What are practical ways that we can seek to show our love to others at Countryside?
2. Are there conflicts or challenging situations that you have with other Christians that you need to seek reconciliation and resolution for? What is a biblical, practical path forward?
3. Read Philemon 6. Why does Paul highlight Christian fellowship? Why is it important for Christians to take full advantage of fellowship with God and fellowship with other believers? How do you foster biblical fellowship in your own life/family? How has true fellowship helped your Christian life?