

Sunday – May 26, 2024



“God’s Unstoppable Peace”
Philemon 1:1-25

“Forgive and forget” is a phrase we use often. Easy to say, very hard to practice. Sometimes even the first part can seem impossible. Forgiveness which leads to reconciliation is foundational to our faith, and relationship with God, and yet we struggle mightily with these concepts.

KEY VERSE: “I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart.”
(Philemon v12)

Read through all of *Philemon*. This is one of two Paul’s only personal letters, the other being *3 John*.

What is the general tone of Paul’s letter? What would you say is the greatest concern on Paul’s heart for these two brothers?

As you answer the questions, are their people that God brings to your mind and heart as you hear Paul’s heart about their relationship? _____

How do I invite “God’s Unstoppable Peace” into my imperfect relationships?

Start with God’s _____.

Read *Philemon vs 8-12* again.

God’s _____ **sets the stage.**

In the broken relationships I have in my life, with what do I usually start? God’s love or something else? What is that something else?

Read *1 Cor. 13:4-7*. This is Paul’s description of love (agape). How does this description best fit into healing a broken relationship? Which aspect of love do I do well with and which do I struggle?

One description of “Agape” love is a “feast of love.” Is practicing God’s love a feast, or famine for me?

Center on _____.

Read *Philemon 15-17*.

Jesus makes healing _____.

God can fix what is broken even when I can’t. Do I practice this truth in my relationships or am I too consumed by what I see in a broken relationship?

Read *2 Corinthians 5:17-20*. Paul says I have been given the ministry of reconciliation. How well do I practice this ministry with others? Where do I habitually fall short?

Practice active _____.

Read *Philemon 18-21*.

Grace requires _____.

Grace movement is an act of faith. It says, “I can’t see the end of this broken relationship, but I trust that God is more concerned about it than I can ever be, and usually am.”

This week:

- Am I at peace in my relationship with God through Jesus?
- Is there a relationship in which I need to see God’s reconciling power at work?
- What will I do, with God’s help to start the journey or reconciliation today?

Next Week: “Don’t Get in the Way”