



Discussion Questions • Philemon 1-3

1. Open in Prayer and read Philemon verses 1 - 3.
2. In the past, how have you handled it when someone has wronged you?
 - a. Did you confront them? How did that go?
 - b. How would you recommend someone do that so that it results in a good and peaceful outcome?
3. In the past, how have you handled it when you have wronged someone?
 - a. Did you act to make it right? How or what did you do?
 - b. How would you recommend someone else to “make it right” so that it leads to a good and peaceful outcome?
4. Why do we normally just avoid dealing with our wronging and being wronged?
 - a. What are the results of this avoidance?
5. Why does Paul call himself a prisoner of Christ when he is clearly a prisoner of Rome?
 - a. Why do we struggle to see how God is involved in our difficult situations?
 - b. How is he involved in our difficult situations?
6. What stops wealthier people from following the example of Philemon and his family by providing in special ways for the ministry of the local church? (they met in his home)



- a. How can those who have more in our day show special care for the ministry of our local church?

- 7. Are you uncomfortable with the fact that the Scriptures describe great people of the faith (like Abraham) owning slaves?
 - a. Why or why not?

 - b. Do you understand why skeptics and critics of Christianity call the Bible immoral because it describes slavery in places without explicitly condemning it?
- 8. The Bible was used by both abolitionists and slave-owners over the centuries to justify their views.
 - a. Who was right?

 - b. Which does the Bible support?

 - c. How does it support them?
- 9. How would you answer the critique made by many modern critics of Christianity that the Bible is “pro-slavery”?

OPTIONAL: What is one thing you are willing to change in your life as a result of what you have learned from the discussion?

Wrap Up and Prayer

Pray for each other as you apply what you have learned along with other requests.