



Discussion Questions • Philemon 4-7 NIV

1. What is your experience with prayer?
 - a. What has helped you pray more often and longer?
 - b. If you struggle to pray, what are some of the contributing factors?
 - c. How would you counsel someone to improve at praying?
 - d. What motivations would you offer them?
2. Why does Paul seem to pray for different stuff than we do (see Philippians 1:9-10, Ephesians 1:18-19, or Philemon 4-7)?
3. Why do we struggle to focus on what God is doing in the lives of others, as opposed to focusing on their faults?
 - a. How can we focus more on the former than the latter?
4. Paul focuses on the good that he has heard about Philemon and praises God for it.
 - a. Do you make it a habit to encourage people by telling them the positive things you hear about them? Why or why not?
 - b. How can you do that more often in a “not-weird” way?
5. What do you want to be remembered for? Why?
 - a. Why do we focus on pursuing our value in other things, but often minimize the value of faith in Christ and love for others?
6. Paul rejoices over the ministry of Philemon in verse 7. Do you think we are prone to rejoice over the successes of others or feel envy? Why?
 - a. How can we foster the kind of attitude Paul had for Philemon?
7. Paul prays that Philemon’s “partnership” in the faith will become effective in verse 6. This means that Paul wants Philemon to experience the obligation he has to other Christians (especially Onesimus).
 - a. What kinds of material obligations should we have toward our brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - b. What kinds of relational obligations should we have toward our brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - c. How can we foster a willingness to share with them more?
 - d. How can we foster a willingness to sort out our relational difficulties with them more?

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.