

Sermon: Fellowship through Forgiveness

Bible Passage: Philemon 1:1-25

I. This short letter explains how the gospel changes us and our relationships with one another for the glory of Christ!

II. Paul's letter to Philemon is an appeal for him to forgive Onesimus, the runaway slave.

III. Background on slavery in New Testament times.

IV. The importance of forgiveness in the Bible

V. Lessons on forgiveness in this letter

1. Forgiveness for the entire church (verses 1-3)
2. Forgiveness requires character (verses 4-7)
3. Forgiveness acts out of love (verses 8-17)
4. Forgiveness cancels debt (verses 18-25)

VI. Take Away

Remember how Christ has received you, and be a person who builds bridges rather than walls