

UNSHAKEABLE

Part 4.1 Philemon 8-9

What is the number #1 **external** mark of a Christian? LOVE

What is the number #1 **attraction to** Christianity? LOVE

In life, take the High Road of Love

Paul had the RIGHT to make a DEMAND of Philemon vs. 8

- *'enough confidence'* = courage via my DIVINE commission
- *'to order you'* = command you do what is RIGHT
- *'to do what is proper'* = THEOLOGICALLY fitting in the Lord
- *'In Christ'* = a SPIRITUAL authority, not a CIVIL authority

Paul instead uses the tool of love to APPEAL to Philemon vs. 9

- *'for love's sake'* = the #1 MARKER of a Christian
- *'I rather appeal'* = INVITATION to draw near
- *'Paul the aged'* = old in years, older still in WEAR AND TEAR
- *'Paul the prisoner of Christs Jesus'* = someone who endures TRIALS for Jesus

Love **takes** the High Road,
because Love **is** the High Road

Auburn Grace Community Church – February 28, 2021

Life Group Discussion Questions – February 28, 2021

DISCOVER (read Philemon vv. 8-9)

1. What first attracted you to Christianity; was it something about Jesus or something done by another Christian?
2. Have you ever been hurt or wronged by a Christian brother or sister? If so, how did your heart respond?

EXPLORE

1. In vs. 8, Paul refers to his God-given authority as an Apostle. How confident was Paul in his position as an Apostle? What qualified Paul to hold such boldness? Paul is not using civil authority to compel Philemon, but instead is using spiritual authority. What is the difference, and which one is higher?
2. In vs. 9, Paul sets his Apostolic authority aside for the moment and instead uses the tool of love to appeal to Philemon to do what is right. Appeal means to 'invite to come near'. How is this more loving?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-29; Paul's list of tough experiences as a missionary. In Philemon vs. 9 Paul reminds Philemon that he himself has endured hard experiences for the sake of Jesus by using the terms 'aged' and 'prisoner'. What do you think Paul is doing by sharing these thoughts?

EXPERIENCE

1. Paul is getting ready to ask Philemon to do a hard thing, forgive Onesimus. Discuss what role love plays in dealing with Christian virtues, such as forgiveness.
2. We call each other "brother" or "sister" often. What does this say about our relationship, our bonds, with each other? What does it say about the family of God?
3. Are there any brothers or sisters that have truly wronged you that you need to take the high road of love with? If so, what does this look like?

PRAY

Pray that God would appeal to your heart to love those who have hurt or wronged you. Forgiveness does not include allowing hurt to continue, but it does mean moving from our natural responses to hurt and moving to love toward that person. Pray that God gives each of us that kind of

heart. Also pray that as we live with our brothers and sisters in the Lord we will demand less and appeal more.