

UNSHAKEABLE

Part 6 Philemon 1:17
'accept him as you would me.'

Life Principle: Accept back those who have wronged you!

'Accept' = to take to oneself... admit, welcome, receive, lead

#1 - Deal with the HURT of the offense vs. 12-14

Take the BLOW and LET IT GO! Matthew 5:21-24

Forgoing RETALIATION, RETRIBUTION,
perhaps even RESTITUTION

#2 - Deal with the OFFENDER vs. 15-16

Set the OFFENDER free into God's hands

Set YOURSELF free into God's hands

Accept the offender back into a HEALTHY relationship
vs. 11, 13, 16

#3 - Deal with the DEBT of the offender vs. 18-19

Paul RECOGNIZES the debt Onesimus owed

Allowing the debt to be paid by a THIRD PARTY
Ephesians 4:32

Auburn Grace Community Church – March 14th, 2021

Life Groups Discussion Questions - March 14, 2021

Philemon 1:14, 17 "...but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion, but of your own free will." "accept him as you would me."

DISCOVER Re-read Philemon vv. 10-19.

1. Describe Onesimus' situation from his point-of-view. What was at stake in his return to Philemon?
2. What was Paul referring to when he mentioned "accept him as you would me"?
3. Why did Paul command Philemon to 'accept' Onesimus by his 'own free will'?

EXPLORE

1. Compare and contrast "goodness by compulsion" and "goodness by free will." Is a display of "goodness by compulsion" always wrong?
2. **Why was Onesimus' return to Philemon necessary? Could this matter have been resolved in a different way?** In what ways was Paul hoping Onesimus would be compliant?
3. Can you identify three ways that Paul would benefit from having Onesimus stay with him in prison? What are they?
4. Where do you see that Paul was leaving his appeal to the discretion of Philemon? What purpose did this serve? What does this say about Paul's character? ...about Philemon's?

EXPERIENCE

1. What is your fleshly reaction when people do wrong to you? What happens if you keep dwelling on it? Why is forgiveness so liberating?
2. Read Matthew 5:21-24 and 5:44. How does Jesus more specifically define the Commandment 'Thou Shall not commit Murder'?
3. If you are like most in our culture, you sometimes struggle to accept back those who hurt you? Why is it so important for us to avoid holding onto hurt and anger toward the hurts we experience and those that cause them?
4. Philemon and Onesimus' relationship started out 'unhealthy', to the point where Onesimus ran away. But Onesimus came back truly changed and was a new man! Paul is now asking Philemon to accept him back into a 'healthy' relationship. Have you ever had this happen with a friend? Explain.
5. Define the concept of "restitution." What are the key elements of restitution? Explain how the story of Philemon illustrates God's view of restitution.

PRAY

Thank God for His faithful providence; that all things are given to us by Him. Pray that He would help us to see our hurts as part of the trials we endure as Christians. Ask God to show us if there is someone we need to 'accept back'. Ask him to show you how to do this and to give you the courage and strength to do it.