

UNSHAKEABLE

Part 8 Philemon 1:20-22

Life Principle: Affirm and Assume the best of each other!

Paul expresses his BELIEF in Philemon, that he will do the right thing.

- **'Benefit'** = be an ONESIMUS to me!
- **'REFRESH my heart'** = just as you do for others (vs. 7)
- **'having CONFIDENCE in your obedience'** = Obeying

the LORD and our gospel relationship OBLIGATIONS.

Obligations:

1. BOTH of us live for and love Jesus
 2. Love, help, and care for each other 'IN THE LORD'
 3. Sometimes ask HARD THINGS of each other
 4. Always ASSUME and AFFIRM the best in each other
- **'even MORE than what I say'** = A PRODIGAL SON type of forgiveness.

Paul believes his RELATIONSHIP with Philemon will continue

- Paul is not going to let Philemon's response be a relationship KILLER
- God sets a high standard to kill a relationship: APOSTASY & UNREPENTANT sinful behavior.

Life Group Discussion Questions – March 28, 2021

Philemon v. 21-22 Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say. At the same time also prepare me a guest room, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you

DISCOVER

1. Toward the end of the letter, Paul expresses to Philemon that he will soon be delivered from his plight. What did Paul say he would do afterward?
2. Paul seems determined to visit Philemon on his release from Roman house arrest. Find two or three verses in this epistle that give credence to this idea. What can we infer by Paul's intention to stay for a while with Philemon?

EXPLORE

1. In last Sunday's sermon, Phil talked about "killing relationships." What does that mean? What bearing do Matthew 18:15, 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15, and 1 Peter 4:8 have on this idea?
2. God is clear about when it's appropriate to "kill" a relationship. Give two reasons. What scriptures can you reference that support this?
3. The relationship between Paul and Philemon was one of an enduring and persistent friendship in Christ. They not only loved Christ, they lived for Him. Re-read Philemon v. 20. What was the benefit from Philemon being in the Lord that Paul was hoping for?

EXPERIENCE

1. As a group, define the phrase, "Giving someone the benefit of the doubt." Would you give just anyone this benefit? Why or why not? Is this conditional love? Explain.
2. "If we make it clear that we expect little, we will probably get just that." Do you agree with that statement? What is the antithesis of that assertion? How have you personally seen this played out in your life? Discuss some of the possible consequences of this topic with regards to child rearing.
3. As Christians, why is it so important to live our lives as worthy of being trusted? Do your unchurched friends consider you to be a person of integrity and honesty? Are you inclined to go above and beyond or do you compromise? How would your relationship with these friends change if you always went the extra mile?
4. Discuss the idea of today's Cancel Culture. What is it? In what ways have you noticed it creeping into Christian community? What should our response look like? When was the last time you have asked a hard thing of a brother or sister? Has someone in the faith community ever asked you a hard thing? How did you respond?

PRAY

Praise God for the gift of friendships, especially those in Christian community. Thank Him that He has brought Life Group friends that encourage us to love others and do good works that make us useful to them and God. Thank God for bringing friends that can tell us the truth even when it's painful to hear because we have confidence that they ultimately have our good in mind.