



**“Love and Faith”**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> in the “For Love’s Sake” Series**  
**Philemon 4-7 p. 1000**  
September 10, 2017  
Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction**

In this passage God teaches us about the unique relationship between Christians and the love faith demands.

**The Text: Philemon 4-7**

1) The force behind Paul’s appeal to Philemon is the important relationship between love and faith (vv. 4-5).

2) Faith in Christ leads to love for others directed by the special, shared identity between Christians (v. 6).

3) God wants Hope Church to deepen and expand our faith-derived love for others (v. 7).

**Response**

- The two legs of the Christian walk are love and faith
  - In the same way that our faith unites us intimately to Christ, so also it unites us to our fellow Christians and directs our love for them.
  - How can a person put this into practice?
    - (1) Commit to God’s Son, Jesus (faith)
    - (2) Connect to God’s people (church)
    - (3) Contribute to God’s work (love)

## Sermon Questions for Philemon 4-7

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- 1) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 2) In v. 4 and v. 6 Paul explains his prayers for Philemon. What do those verses reveal about the amount Paul prays and for what he prays? How should we emulate Paul's prayer practices?
- 3) What is the significance of the qualifier "my God" in v. 4, and how does that teach us to relate to God?
- 4) The Greek text for v. 5 is complex. After comparing different translations (e.g., ESV and NIV) for v. 5, what are the differences between them, and which one better fits the context of vv. 4-7?
- 5) Why might Paul refer to Christians as "saints" (note: the term's origin means "holiness")?
- 6) The word translated as "sharing" (ESV) or "partnership" (NIV) in v. 6 is the Greek word *koinonia*. The term *koinonia* refers to special relationship and intimate fellowship that exists between Christians. Based upon the rest of the Bible, how would you explain the unique relationship that exists between Christians?
- 7) What is Paul saying when he prays that the *koinonia* between Christians "may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us" (v. 6)?
- 8) What does the statement with which Paul ends v. 6 mean: "for the sake of Christ?"
- 9) Rooted in v. 7, how have you been benefited by the love of another Christian? How have you benefited another Christian?
- 10) How do vv. 4-7 set up the appeal Paul is about to make to Philemon? How do these verses also exhort Christians today?

**Further study this week:** Acts 2:42-47 on the fellowship between Christians (Mon); John 13:31-35 on love between Christians (Tues); 1 John 1:1-4 on shared fellowship between Christians and God (Wed); 1 John 4:7-21 on love for others (Thurs); Galatians 6:1-10 on ministering to one another (Fri).