



In the Flesh and in the Lord
3rd in the “For Love’s Sake” Series
Philemon 8-16, p. 1000
September 24, 2017

Introduction

In this passage God explains how his authority and his love are displayed in his Body, the church.

The Text: Philemon 8-16

- 1) Christians sits under the Lordship of Christ, whose authority is mediated through his Body, the local church (v. 8).

Christ’s authority is expressed in several ways:

- (1) Person: Jesus is Lord*
- (2) Voice: the Word of God*
- (3) Presence: the local church (congregation)*
- (4) Office: the under-shepherds of Christ (pastor-elder)*

- 2) The love of God frees Christians to deny their rights and privileges and display a real, sacrificial love for and reconciliation with others (vv. 9-16).

Response

- Are you experiencing the freedom and joy of reconciliation and love?

Sunday Text Questions for Philemon 8-16

September 24, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification. Because it is short and interrelated, you may want to read the entire letter.
- 2) Based upon v. 8, how does Christ give Paul a boldness he could have used to command Philemon to do what is required?
- 3) V. 8 reflects not only Paul's apostolic authority, but the authority of Christ. How should the Christian live under the authority or Lordship of Christ?
- 4) How might a Christian act in such a way that they reject Christ's Lordship? How might an individual, church, or denomination abuse Christ's Lordship as they mediate his authority?
- 5) Why does Paul appeal to Philemon "for love's sake" and not by his apostolic authority in Christ (v. 9)?
- 6) Paul speaks of his relationship to Onesimus with terms like "child" and "father" in v. 10, which is clearly a metaphor describing the leading of someone to spiritual new birth. What does this teach us about the need for and process of raising up children of God? What does it look like to birth and raise spiritual children?
- 7) How do vv. 10-13 show Paul's love and affection for Onesimus? In what ways does this help you see Paul not only as a great theologian (e.g., Romans), but also as a pastor and Christian brother?
- 8) Why in v. 14 does Paul not want to compel Philemon to do what is required? The phrase, "your goodness," is central to Paul's reasoning. What does that phrase mean?
- 9) Based upon vv. 15-16, how should our reconciliation to Christ affect our reconciliation with others, especially other believers?
- 10) The Christian life is a call to experience the freedom and joy of reconciliation and love. With whom do you need to seek reconciliation (spouse, kids, co-worker, extended family, neighbor, etc.)? How can you begin to see the reconciliation about which Paul urges in Philemon?

Further study this week: 1 Tim 5 on relationships in the family of God (Mon); Eph 2:11-22 on God's family, the church (Tues); 2 Thess 3:6-15 on sacrifices in the family of God (Wed); Phil 2:1-11 on Christ's denial of rights (Thurs); Phil 2:19-30 on sacrifice and ministry in the church (Fri).