

On the Basis of Love

Philemon 8-25

"The message given by Jesus and the apostles is resoundingly clear: whether our conflicts involve minor irritations or major legal issues, peace and unity are of paramount importance to God. Therefore, peacemaking is not an optional activity for a believer. If you have committed your life to Christ, he commands you to make peace and unity a high priority in your life. Token efforts will not satisfy this command; God wants you to strive earnestly, diligently, and continually to maintain harmonious relationships with those around you. Your obedience to this call will advance the gospel and allow you to enjoy the personal peace that God gives to those who faithfully serve him." Ken Sande

- I. Agape love is the force that Jesus uses to compel all believers to love our neighbors as ourselves. If we take seriously the love that has been shown to us through Jesus Christ, then we will take seriously the love we are to show toward one another. To let Christ's love compel us to love one another, is to bring spiritual vitality and peace into his church.

Matt 22:37-39

2 Cor. 5:14

- II. Paul's appeal to Philemon is an appeal to all of us to put into practice our faith, despite the circumstances that could falsely justify us from doing otherwise. It is to be the kind of faith that is willing to do whatever the Lord requires for the sake of peace.

Philemon 8-11

Rom 2:11

1 Cor. 4:15

- III. Forgiveness, when it comes from the heart, shows God that we highly value our forgiveness through his Son Jesus Christ. It also shows the Lord that we highly value the common bond we have with one another as blood bought children of God.

Philemon 12-21

James 1:22-25

Rom. 12:18

- IV. Paul begins his letter to Philemon emphasizing the grace and peace of Christ (vs.3), and he ends his letter reminding us that Jesus gives us the grace we need to put into practice the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3). We must look to him to give us the ability to forgive as the Lord forgave us, so that his peace can rule in our hearts on a consistent basis no matter how we've been sinned against (Col. 3:13-15).

Philemon 22-25

1 Peter 3:8-12