



Philemon: The Model of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2 (TCT) *From this moment on, therefore, we don't regard anybody from a merely human point of view. Even if we once regarded Christ that way, we don't any longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. Old things have gone, and look---everything has become new! All this is from G-d, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that G-d was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. So, we are ambassadors, speaking on behalf of Christ, as though G-d were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to G-d. Christ did not know sin, but G-d made him to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might embody G-d's faithfulness to the covenant and become the righteousness of G-d.*

So, as we partner together and work with G-d, we appeal to you and urge you: when you accept G-d's grace, don't let it go to waste! This is what he says: I listened to you when the time of my favor was right. I came to your aid on the day of salvation. Look! The time of G-d's favor is now! Look! The day of salvation is here!

Philemon: the Message of Reconciliation

verse 3 *Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Philemon: the Ministry of Reconciliation

TAKE THE POSITION OF HUMILITY

Philemon 8-9 *although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,⁹ yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love.*

BELIEVE THAT G-D CAN CHANGE PEOPLE

Philemon 10-11 *I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.*

CHALLENGE PEOPLE TO TAKE A STEP

Philemon 12-14

Onesimus your step is to _____ **Philemon** your step is to _____

My step is to _____

FIND G-D'S WORK IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Philemon 15-16 *Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother.*

BE WILLING TO PAY A PRICE

Philemon 17-25 (18) *If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.*

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.*

Romans 8:6 NLT *So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.*