

Sermon: How to Guide to Reconciliation
Series: *Koinonia*

Scripture: Philemon 1-25.
Date: February 7, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Read Colossians 1:18-20. Philemon, as an elder at Colossae, would have read these words. How might this teaching of Paul about God help Philemon be open to reconciliation? How does it soften your own heart toward reconciliation?

2) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?

a) Is there any relationship of yours that needs reconciliation? Is there a relationship where you might be able to guide toward reconciliation? Is there any Christian/church that you've given up on because it's too hard or messy?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Read Philemon 6. How is Paul appealing to our fellowship in Christ? How would you describe your personal fellowship with Christ? How would you describe your fellowship with other Christians IN CHRIST? Why is it that every Christian can be reconciled to one another and should strive for reconciliation with one another?

APPLICATION

a) In the sermon we gave four ways to help guide toward reconciliation. Talk through these four principles together and apply them a relationship of your own or a relationship that you can help to guide toward reconciliation in Christ.

1. Appeal for reconciliation for our fellowship with Christ.
2. Appeal for reconciliation from the love inside of the Christian's heart (Ask: can you see this as an opportunity to love as God has loved you?).
3. Help both parties see the providence of God's grace in the midst of the conflict (Ask: How can you see God at work in your heart?).
4. Demonstrate Christ's intermediation (appeal to union with Christ, not just "Christian behavior.").

FIGHTER VERSES: Galatians 3:10-14.

PRAYER

Praise God for his reconciliation with you in Christ (pray Romans 5:8-11).
Confess ways that you have failed to seek reconciliation or have even promoted division.
Ask God to use you to guide others into reconciliation.