

**Philemon:**  
**Forgiveness: The Beginning of Reconciliation**  
**January 8, 2017**  
**By: Shaun Brown**

**Philemon 4-7**

I always thank my God when I pray for you, Philemon,  
<sup>5</sup>because I keep hearing about your faith in the Lord  
Jesus and your love for all of God's people. <sup>6</sup>And I am  
praying that you will put into action the generosity that  
comes from your faith as you understand and  
experience all the good things we have in Christ. <sup>7</sup>Your  
love has given me much joy and comfort, my brother,  
for your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of  
God's people. (NLT)

I. \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

A. How often do you pray for \_\_\_\_\_?

B. Praying for those we \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 5:43-44**

"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor'  
and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup>But I say, love your enemies!  
Pray for those who persecute you! (NLT)

II. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

A. You have \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus.

**Ephesians 4:32**

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving  
one another, just as God through Christ has  
forgiven you. (NLT)

**Matthew 22:37-38**

Jesus replied, " 'You must love the Lord your God with  
all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is  
the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>A second is  
equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'  
(NLT)

III. A \_\_\_\_\_ as an overflow of the  
gospel.

A. \_\_\_\_\_: Partner together for the  
good of the gospel.

**Acts 2:42-46**

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles'  
teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals  
(including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>A deep  
sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles  
performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup>And  
all the believers met together in one place and shared  
everything they had. <sup>45</sup>They sold their property and  
possessions and shared the money with those in need.  
<sup>46</sup>They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met  
in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals  
with great joy and generosity. (NLT)

B. Our love for God is clearly displayed to others by:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ for others to be around.

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**Small Group Questions**

\*You do NOT have to answer or discuss every question. Feel free to just pick a few. These are meant to guide you in truth. If you are having trouble answering a question, ask your small group leader to help you. They are committed to helping you develop as an authentic follower of Christ.

**The COMMUNITY:**

1. Do you consider yourself to be a forgiving person? Why or why not?

**Into the WORD/APPLICATION:**

Here are some suggested sites in order to dive deeper into God's Word: [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org), [desiringgod.org/articles/all](http://desiringgod.org/articles/all), [biblos.com](http://biblos.com), [ccel.org](http://ccel.org), [logos.com](http://logos.com), [connect.ligonier.org](http://connect.ligonier.org), [thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology](http://thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology).

1. Read Philemon 1-25.
  - A. Why is Paul writing to Philemon? (consider verses 8-18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - B. Why is it that Paul can “thank God always” for Philemon? (consider verse 5)

- C. Why do you think Paul can be so uplifting and kind toward Philemon as he encourages him to reconcile with his slave, Onesimus? What can we learn from Paul’s approach?

2. Read Ephesians 4:25-32.

- A. How does the reaction of His followers in John 20 conflict with this criticism?

- B. Do you have a disunifying conflict with a brother or sister in Christ right now? Can your small group help you repent of this so that the body of Christ may be unified?

3. Shaun said, “when I consider that God has forgiven me of my sin as far as the east is from the west, who am I to hold on to a grudge?”.

- A. How can this statement be a motivator to reconcile with those who have offended you?