

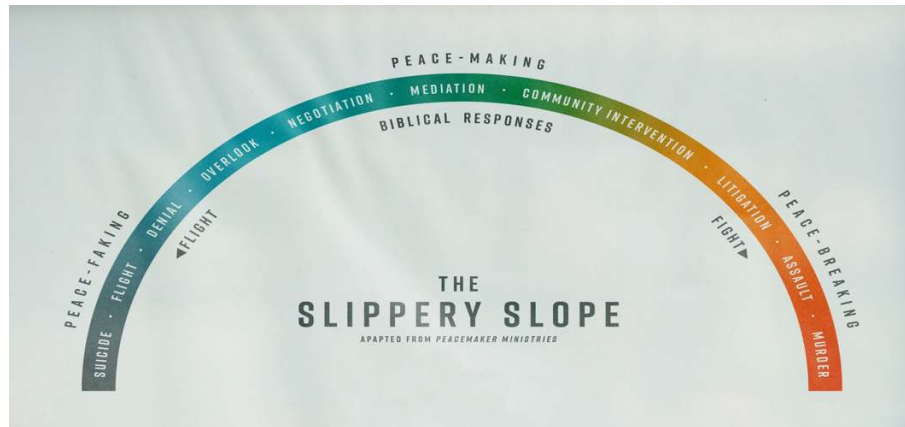
Here to Stay: Preserve Unity by Fighting for Peace

Philemon, verses 15-25

Josh Weidmann, Senior Pastor

Pray: For God to reveal to you: Who have you hurt in the past? Who do you need to seek forgiveness from? What relationship(s) in your life need to be restored? Who, in your life, needs a bridge built?

Review from last week: Use the chart from last week. Where do you, honestly, find yourself when dealing with conflict with others? Is your personal conflict resolution biblical and healthy or on the extremes of Flight or Fight? Think of different conflicts that you have been involved in and how you handled them. Where do you need to grow? How do you need to grow?



1. Love your enemies and avoid strife. – v. 17
Who do you see as an “enemy” in your life and how have you dealt with them? Think of the chart (above) from last week.
2. Let go of offenses and embrace grace. – vv. 18-19
Martin Luther considered v. 18 as the absolute central focus of this book. Why? How does Paul’s response to Onesimus mirror what Christ has done for us?
3. Examine your own heart and refresh others with forgiveness. – vv. 19-21
If you could summarize Paul’s request to Philemon in 1 word, what would it be? “Love that stoops is grace.” How have you lived that out? Do you have somebody in your life that you need to stoop to? What would that look like? What does Matthew 6:14-15 say about this?
4. Avoid embitterment and affirm your bond in Christ. – vv. 22-25
How does anger move to bitterness? “Bitterness is anger that has fermented.” Read Ephesians 4:31. As a Christ-follower, what are we to do with bitterness? How do we do that?

Assignment:

1. Is there a broken relationship in your life that you could/should restore? What can you do this week to start that process? How can you use the P-A-U-S-E principal?
2. Do you have bitterness towards anybody? How can you apply grace to them?
3. Read Matthew 7. What are the “logs” in your eyes?
4. Read James 1: 2-18 for next week.