



South Sub Church

May 31, 2026

## **Navigating Conflict, Hurt, and Reconciliation** **“Receive, Forgive and Restore”**

### **Philemon 1:17-25(NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. <sup>19</sup> I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL! <sup>20</sup> Yes, my brother, please do me this favor for the Lord's sake. Give me this encouragement in Christ. <sup>21</sup> I am confident as I write this letter that you will do what I ask and even more! <sup>22</sup> One more thing—please prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that God will answer your prayers and let me return to you soon. <sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. <sup>24</sup> So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers. <sup>25</sup> May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

### **Sermon Summary:**

Relationships can be complicated. They don't always turn out the way we hoped. Some are strained, some are distant, and some feel too complicated to fix. Misunderstandings, hurt, and unresolved tension can leave us wondering if anything could ever change.

The gospel speaks to more than just our eternity. It speaks directly into our relationships. In this series through the book of Philemon, we'll discover how the gospel provides a real pathway for healing what's broken, rebuilding trust, and pursuing reconciliation - even when it feels messy or costly. No matter how complicated a relationship, there is hope for a better way forward.

### **Fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:**

1. Have you ever stepped in to help resolve a conflict between two people?
2. Have you ever had someone vouch for you or support you when you needed it most?
3. What makes reconciliation difficult in relationships?
4. Who is someone that has shown you unexpected grace?
5. What does true partnership look like in your friendships?

### **Objective Bible study questions (observation):**

1. What does Paul ask Philemon to do if he considers Paul a partner (verse 17)?
2. How does Paul say Philemon should treat Onesimus?
3. What does Paul offer to do if Onesimus has wronged Philemon or owes him anything (verse 18)?

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4. What does Paul say about paying back the debt?
5. What reminder does Paul give Philemon about what he owes Paul (verse 19)?
6. What does Paul ask Philemon to do for him “in the Lord” (verse 20)?
7. How confident is Paul that Philemon will obey his request?
8. What additional request does Paul make in verse 22?
9. Who are the people mentioned sending greetings in verses 23–24?
10. What final blessing does Paul give in verse 25?

#### **Interpretive Questions (meaning):**

1. What does it mean for Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive Paul?
2. Why does Paul offer to personally repay Onesimus’ debt?
3. How does Paul’s action reflect the message of the Gospel?
4. What is the significance of Paul reminding Philemon that he owes him his own life?
5. What does Paul mean by wanting to be “refreshed” by Philemon?

#### **Application questions (life response):**

1. Is there someone you need to forgive or reconcile with right now?
2. How can you extend grace to someone who has wronged you?
3. What would it look like to treat others as you would treat Christ?
4. Who can you advocate for or stand alongside this week?
5. What is one step you can take to live out gospel-centered reconciliation in your life?