



Philemon

Sunday, April 10, 2016

III. The Unleashed Gospel transforms _____.

- Why isn't the evil of slavery directly confronted in the _____?
- The Unleashed Gospel is like a _____
- The Unleashed Gospel is like a _____

The brief book of Philemon is singular and unique among the 27 books of the New Testament. It's addressed from Paul to a wealthy slave owner about Onesimus, a runaway slave who has come to faith in Jesus. But is this odd letter practical and instructive for us? ABSOLUTELY! Philemon teaches/reminds us for the transformative power of the Gospel.

I. The Unleashed Gospel of Jesus transforms _____.

The Unleashed Gospel transforms people from the _____.

- _____
- _____
- _____

II. The Unleashed Gospel of Jesus transforms _____.

- The Unleashed Gospel calls us to _____ and _____.
- The Unleashed Gospel _____ the playing field by breaking down social _____ and _____.
- The Unleashed Gospel makes very different people _____.



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Connecting Together

Welcome to Spring Growth Groups. In this first week of Growth Groups, 1) make sure everyone knows everyone and 2) talk about why you've committed to a Growth Group this quarter and what you hope to see happen as you meet together.

Studying God's Word Together

1. What jumped out at you in our study of the book of Philemon? Have you ever thought much about the book and its application before? If so, when and why?
2. Read the book of Philemon together as a group. Why is this book so singular and so unique about this book among the 27 books of the New Testament? What's the "elephant in the room" in the book of Philemon?
3. Just to make sure we know what's going on in Philemon . . .
Who is the author of the book?
Who is the letter addressed to?
What and who is the letter about?
4. Explain and discuss the radical nature of the book of Philemon and the transformative power of the Unleashed Gospel. What would we expect Onesimus to do? What is he doing instead? What does Philemon have a right to do? What is Paul appealing to him to do instead?

5. The Unleashed Gospel transforms hearts from the inside out! Where do we see it in the text?
6. Describe the contrast between a "leashed" and "unleashed" Gospel. How can we tell if the Gospel is leashed or unleashed in our own lives?
7. Reflect a little and share ways that the Gospel is currently transforming your heart and/or your relationships. If you're not sure or aware, what can you do?
8. What would you say to someone who asked "Why doesn't the Bible directly confront/eliminate slavery?"

Household/Family Focus: for discussion in your household

Take some time to share how the Gospel is impacting/shaping or needs to impact/shape the relationships of your household/family.

Prayer Together

Share real life needs and pray for those, but at the same time pray for the unleashing of the Gospel in your lives and in your Growth Group. Pray for the Gospel transformation of hearts and relationships at Grace Central Coast.