

Philemon Series  
Week 4 outline  
Philemon 20-25  
10.3.21

## THE REFRESHING OF THE SAINTS

### **I. A New Community**

#### **A. The Shared Partnership of the Faith** (vs1-7)

1. Collaborating in worship
2. Participating in fellowship
3. Contributing in mission

#### **B. Lived out in Redemptive Relationships** (vs 8-16)

1. The Cross frees us from the cycle of bitterness and compiles us into forgiveness
2. Bitterness is compulsory... it's motivation is fear  
Forgiveness is compelling... it's motivation is love

#### **C. In the Reflection of the Gospel** (vs 17-19)

The Gospel equips and compels us to forgive one another

- In the recognition of our own need
- In the humility of a repentant heart
- Choosing to trust in faith
- In the confidence of life in grace

#### **D. Refreshing the Hearts of the Saints** (vs 20-25)

*-“Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.” -vs 7*

*-“I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.” -vs 20*

THIS IS A NEW COMMUNITY:  
PARTNERED ON MISSION  
EQUIPPED WITH FORGIVENESS  
AND EMPOWERED BY THE GOSPEL

*...and this new community is REFRESHING!*

## **II. A Fresh Take on Community**

### **A. A Benefit to Us in the Lord** (Philemon 20-25)

*-“I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.”*

### **B. If Community, Then Conflict** (Matthew 18:15-20)

Conflict is not a sign of a dysfunctional church...it is a sign of a growing church. The sign of a dysfunctional church is when it refuses to follow Jesus through conflict.

Jesus teaches us how to Deal with 100% of the conflict 100% of the time.

#### **1. Just the Two of Us** (vs 15)

*“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.”*

#### **2. Can I get a Witness!** (vs 16)

*“but if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”*

#### **3. Take it to the Elders** (vs 17a)

*“If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church”*

#### **4. When all else fails...** (vs 17b)

*“and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”*

CONFLICT, WHEN HANDLED CORRECTLY, BREEDS INTIMACY AND DESTROYS ANIMOSITY

## **III. The Final Apologetic** (John 13:34-35)

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

“Our relationships with each other  
is the criterion that the world uses  
to judge whether our message is truthful.  
Christian community is the final apologetic.”  
-Frances Shaeffer