



CHARGE IT TO ME: LIFE GROUP-SPRING WK6

Read Philemon 17-25

So if you [Philemon] consider me [Paul] a partner, welcome him [Onesimus] as you would welcome me. If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. 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. And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

1. Paul is appealing for Philemon to partner (koinonia) with Onesimus. The word means to “partner together to mutually share life.” What keeps God’s people from developing relationships at this level? What habits are you developing in your life to “partner” with others?

2. Paul is not asking Philemon to ignore the wrongs Onesimus has done in the past. He states: “If he has done wrong or owes you anything, charge it me... I will pay it back.” Paul is encouraging Philemon to remember what Onesimus did and come up with a fair price to make the matter right. True forgiveness always considers the wrongs done and the price that must be paid for forgiveness to take place.

- Why is it important to remember the wrongs of the past to forgive in the present?

THE ART OF BEING
UNORDINARY
■ ■ ■ ■ ▲ BEING DIFFERENT AMONG ORDINARY PEOPLE

- Paul guarantees to pay the debt Onesimus owes Philemon. Has anyone ever paid for a sin you committed so you could restore a broken relationship? Explain what happened.

- What circumstances would be necessary for you to be willing to pay a debt someone else owes so their brokenness could be restored?

3. Paul assures Philemon that he is “confident” of his obedience. What or who is Philemon being obedient to? It is not Paul, because Paul explicitly told Philemon in verse 8 that he was not ordering him to do anything. I think Paul is confident Philemon will be obedient to the agape (unconditional) love Christ has placed in his heart. Have you ever been obedient to the agape love Christ has placed in you? What happened?