

Refreshing Fellowship

Philemon 1-7

When the Gospel Gets Real

Philemon shows us what happens when the gospel has to be lived out in the complicated realities of life.

The Gospel Creates a _____. (v.4-5)

Christ does not merely reconcile isolated sinners to God. He creates a new people.

The church is not something you _____.

The church is a people to whom you _____.

If all my relationships in the church are relationships I would naturally have chosen anyway, I may be experiencing _____ without experiencing the fullness of Christian _____.

The Gospel Calls Us to _____. (v. 6)

Christianity is not a _____ religion. There are realities of our faith that we fully know only by living them out together.

Our shared faith becomes _____ *"for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ."*

I know you, you know me, and because we belong to Christ, your life has become my concern.

That is _____.

One of the great weaknesses of contemporary church life is that we can easily mistake _____ for _____.

The Gospel Makes Us a _____ to Others. (v.7)

"Refreshed" carries the idea of rest, relief, renewal.

It is the same word Jesus uses in Matthew 11:28:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

People were stronger because Philemon was part of their lives.

What are other believers receiving because I am part of this church?

Are the hearts of the saints being strengthened because I am part of their lives?

CONCLUSION

"Refreshing fellowship" looks like this:

We _____ to one another.

In Christ, God has made us one people and members of His household.

We _____ with one another.

Our common faith in Christ creates a shared life with His people.

We _____ of one another.

God intends our life together to strengthen and build up His people.

May there be people who are stronger, steadier, encouraged, helped, and renewed in Christ because God placed you/us in their lives.