

Redeeming Grace

Philemon 8-14, 17

The Gospel of Grace: More Than Forgiveness

Grace is God's _____ toward sinners in Christ.

By grace God forgives our sins, removes our guilt, and receives us as His own.

But redeeming grace does more than _____ us. It _____ us.

God gives us new life, gives us His Spirit, and begins making us into people we could never make ourselves.

This is the language of redeeming grace all through the New Testament:

"We ourselves were once ... but when..." (Titus 3:3-7)

"Such were some of you. But..." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

"The old has passed away ... the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Grace creates a _____ and an _____.

Useless To Useful: The Arc of Redeeming Grace – v. 10-13

¹⁰ *I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment.*

¹¹ *(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.)*

Onesimus had left Philemon's household and apparently wronged him in some way. But during Paul's imprisonment, he came into Paul's orbit, heard the gospel, and became Paul's spiritual _____.

Grace has produced a decisive change: "_____."

The man coming home is not simply the man who left.

Grace does not erase our _____, but it changes the direction of our _____.

*Do you believe He can change **others**?*

*Do you believe God's grace can change **you**?*

What is Required: The Response of Redeeming Grace – v. 8-9, 14, 17

⁸ *Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—¹⁰ I appeal to you ...*

Our shared life in Christ creates real _____ toward one another.

Philemon's fellowship must now become _____ in the way he responds to Onesimus.

Paul knows what faithfulness _____, but he wants Philemon's response to arise willingly from _____.

Grace does not make obedience optional; it makes obedience _____.

"that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord." (v. 14)

"... if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me." (v. 17)

Paul does not ask Philemon merely to _____ Onesimus. He asks him to _____ him as he would receive Paul.

Grace must take shape in something _____.

Paul stands between two men he loves, using his relationship with each to seek their _____.

The grace we have received must shape the grace we are willing to _____.

Conclusion: Grace Makes Us Different People Who Treat People Differently

Onesimus shows us what redeeming grace does _____.

Philemon shows us what redeeming grace requires _____.

Where is redeeming grace changing me?

Where does the grace I have received need to change the way I treat someone else?