

**Mutually Beneficial**  
Core Group Discussion Guide  
May 7, 2017

**Message Overview:**

Great relationships are built when they are mutually beneficial. Many people see their relationships nosedive because they fail to understand how to relate with others in ways that benefit everyone involved. Some folks insist on winning at the expense of the people around them while others compromise until there is nothing left of themselves to give. In this message we will address these and several other dynamics that harm relationships. In our passage today, Paul relates to Philemon in a way that is mutually beneficial and will strengthen the relationships of all involved. As we grow in our ability to relate to others and honor Jesus, it is critical to work toward creating relationships that are mutually beneficial.

**Text:**

- Primary Text: Philemon 8-11
- Ephesians 5:21
- Matthew 7:12
- Philippians 2:3

**Questions for Discussion:**

The focus of this discussion will be to talk through the (apparent) conflict between the call of Christ to lay down our lives for others and the example of Paul illustrating the importance of working toward relational solutions that benefit both parties. In short, here is the question: Why does Jesus talk about giving up our lives for others while Paul is advocating for solutions that are win-win?

1. What kinds of relationship dynamics were talked about in the message this morning? (win-win, win-lose, lose-lose, ect)
2. Read John 15:12-14 and Matthew 16:25. What kind of relational dynamic does Jesus seem to be advocating?
  - a. How do you think these verses apply to our relationships? What is Jesus asking of us in our relationships?
  - b. Do you think he is asking us to become doormats? Why or why not?
  - c. (re-read Matthew 16:25) What does Jesus say is the motivation for giving up our lives?
  - d. For many who become pushovers in their relationships, what is usually the motivation? (self preservation, don't like conflict, want people to like them....ect)
  - e. How is the motivation Jesus gives for losing our lives different than the usual motivation in a lose-win relationship?
3. How does loving others sacrificially for the sake of Christ turn into a win-win relationship?
4. Are there ways you can easily discern whether you give up for Christ's sake or because you want the approval of others?
5. Pray for boldness