

Healing the Breaks
Core Group Discussion Guide
05-14-2017

Message Overview:

In the text we are studying, Philemon and Onesimus' relationship had been broken and now Paul was seeking to help mend the break in that relationship. This message will examine how Paul is seeking to do that and how we begin to mend broken relationships.

Text:

- Philemon 12-16
- Proverbs 17:9
- Colossians 1:13-14, 2:6-14, 3:12-13

Questions for Discussion:

1. Which of the following phrases about forgiveness are you most likely to think is true....(if you didn't follow Jesus☺)
 - a. Forgiveness is an invention of weakness.....Forgiveness is unfair.... Forgiveness makes you a doormat....Forgiveness excuses bad behavior....Forgiveness is unjust.
 - b. Why do you find those statements believable at times?
2. Read this verse: **1 Cor. 5:18**. Listen to this statement: "No Christian is ever in a position of such privilege that they are excused from the responsibility of working toward reconciliation." – How do you respond to this statement? What questions does this raise?
 - a. (Write down the questions)
 - b. Which questions are a matter of obedience? (in other words, which questions does scripture directly address?)
 - c. Which questions are a matter of wisdom? (which questions require us to apply biblical principles which aren't as readily apparent?)
3. Ask the group to discuss three things wise people do when seeking reconciliation with someone who has wronged you. Ask the group to measure your "wisdom" against these criteria:
 - a. Is your advice Biblical?
 - b. Do you think Jesus would handle the situation this way?
 - c. (If you aren't sure, don't be afraid of assigning some homework and returning next week to the discussion. We usually learn far more when we are "stuck" and need to seek answers.)
4. Open discussion: What have you found helpful in forgiving those who have wronged you?